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U.N. envoy calls for extension of Sudanese ceasefire

NAIROBI (AFP) — The U.N. Secretary General's Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs for Sudan, Tom Vraalsen, urged here on Thursday an extension of the current Sudanese ceasefire to enable relief agencies to complete food deliveries to its famine-stricken regions. Addressing journalists at the end of his first tour of the region, Vraalsen said he would propose to the two warring sides that the current truce, due to expire in September, be extended by another six months. Vraalsen said attention should be focused on the need for the extension of the ceasefire, as there can only be limited achievement to bring food to all hungry Sudanese, if the security situation is not addressed.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

New Cabinet faces tasks of restoring confidence, reforming economy and ensuring transparency

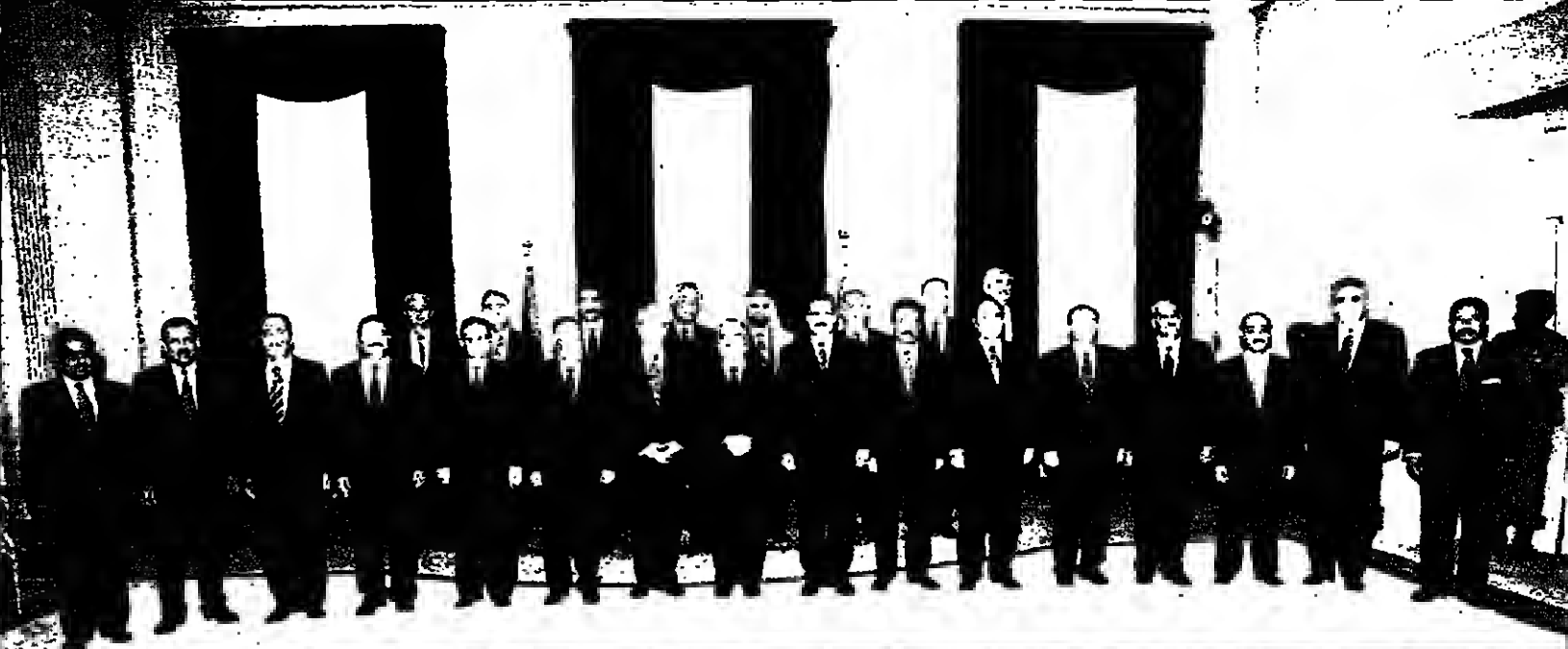
By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Newly-appointed Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh and his team of accomplished technocrats, will face the daunting task of restoring people's confidence in the government, reforming a stagnant economy and a bloated civil administration, and ensuring transparency. Economists, politicians and commentators on Friday gave a thumbs-up to Jordan's 83rd cabinet since 1921, but remained divided on whether high expectations, especially of a successful battle against unemployment and nepotism, will boost or intimidate the government. "The higher the expectations are, the easier they can be disappointed," warned a former minister, who asked not to be named. "But indeed a change was badly needed, and this new government brings in new

blood, which is always a good omen." Analysts agreed that, though the new government is expected to try hard to "put the house in order," no major change in policy should be expected. Tarawneh, they noted, was Royal Court chief until Thursday and also served as foreign minister in the 1997 government of Premier Abdul Salam Majali, who resigned on Wednesday amid a public outcry over the seven-week contaminated water crisis. But Tarawneh also represents a younger generation of statesmen than most of Jordan's recent prime ministers, and his selection of technocrats for key economic posts signals a major change after mounting economic hardships, analysts said. The 23-member team includes seven new faces, mostly in key positions, while it retains 12 ministers from the Majali cabinet.

Tarawneh's mandate, as outlined in the King's letter of designation published Thursday, is mainly domestic, focusing on the fight against nepotism and declining living standards which helped bring down the previous government. "Telling the truth and acting with transparency in presenting the facts to the public are among the most important duties of the government," the King told Tarawneh. "The government's decisions must be clear, honest and objective, based on accurate statistics," he said in an apparent reference to what the local press dubbed as "the growth rate fiasco." The Majali government had come under steady fire at home and abroad for maintaining for 18 months that economic growth rates were five percentage points higher than actual.

(Continued on page 5)



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, stands for a photo session with the new government on Thursday (Photo by Yousef 'Allan')

Regent meets with deputies, senators today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, will meet with members of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament today to exchange views on current socio-economic and political issues and agree on future goals, official sources said on Friday. The meeting comes two days after His Majesty King Hussein, in a letter of designation to Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, asked the government to build a civic and democratic society and to open "dialogue with all political parties... to exchange advice" about the nation's affairs. Prince Hassan, acting as Regent while the King receives chemotherapy at a U.S. hospital, on Thursday swore in Tarawneh's 23-member government of mainly technocrats and reformers. "The meeting with deputies and senators comes to reaffirm the need for dialogue and continuity, even if parliament's extraordinary session is over, and to define the priorities of spending before preparing the 1999 fiscal budget," the official news agency Petra quoted Prince Hassan as telling the new cabinet after members took

the oath. "We shall also launch a serious dialogue with all unions, political parties, executive committees and others to serve this country," he added. "The house of His Majesty King Hussein (the Royal Court) is open for all sectors of society to engage in a constructive dialogue," Prince Hassan said. He also stressed the need to develop a transparent, flexible and objective public administration capable of realizing the country's goals and objectives. The outgoing government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali virtually had no contact with opposition political parties since the latter boycotted the 1997 elections which the former cabinet supervised. In addition, Tarawneh's cabinet will have to tackle mounting economic and administrative problems which helped bring down Majali's government, analysts said. The latest six-week-old crisis over water pollution, which cut off water supplies to much of Amman in the middle of a summer heat wave was the final straw which precipitated Majali's downfall, they added.

Tarawneh visits Zai water plant

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Fayez Tarawneh Friday inspected the Zai Water Treatment Plant (ZWP) and was assured that water pumped to Amman is fit for human consumption and in line with Jordanian specifications and standards, Jordan Television said.

Tarawneh also listened to a briefing by Minister of Water and Irrigation Hani Mulki. The prime minister called for exerting every possible effort to find a final solution to the Kingdom's water problem. The prime minister stressed the need for informing the people in a transparent manner, in accordance with the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.



Premier Tarawneh drinks water from a heaker during a visit to the Zai water treatment plant, Friday (Photo by Yousef 'Allan') Mulki, meanwhile, said that efforts are being exerted to meet the needs of citizens and that the water shortage problem will be solved soon, before the beginning of the new scholastic year. Later, he inspected several water wells in Amman (See story on page 3).

New Cabinet

Following is a list of the new Cabinet ministers, sworn in on Thursday, Aug. 20:

1. Fayez Tarawneh as Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.
2. Taher Kana'an as Minister of State for Development Affairs.
3. Jawdat Sbul as Minister of Justice.
4. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi as Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.
5. Mahdi Al Farhan as Minister of Labour.
6. Talal Sata'an Al Hassan as Minister of Culture and Youth.
7. Tawfiq Kreishan as Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.
8. Abdul Ilah Al Khatib as Minister of Foreign Affairs.
9. Naser Lawzi as Minister of Public Works, Housing and Transport.
10. Mohammad Saleh Hourani as Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply.
11. Hani Al Mulki as Minister of Water and Irrigation and Minister of Energy and

- Mineral Resources.
12. Saleman Al Hafez as Minister of Post and Telecommunications.
13. Mijhem Khreisha as Minister of Agriculture.
14. Mohammad Kheir Mamsar as Minister of Social Development.
15. Akel Biltaji as Minister of Tourism and Antiquities.
16. Bassam Omoush as Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Administrative Development.
17. Nayef Al Qadi as Minister of Interior.
18. Michel Marto as Minister of Finance.
19. Nabil Ammari as Minister of Planning.
20. Naser Judeh as Minister of Information.
21. Fawzi Gharaibeh as Minister of Education.
22. Nayef Ajlouni as Minister of Health and Health Care.
23. Samih Bino as Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs.

U.S. envoy delivers Clinton message to Crown Prince Regent discusses U.S. strikes with Sudanese vice president

Agencies

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Friday received a phone call from Sudanese Vice President Ali Othman Mohammad Taha regarding the U.S. missile strike on a pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum. Taha said that the plant only produces drugs and pharmaceuticals and it has no devices to produce chemical weapons or poisonous gases, adding that the Sudanese government will open the door before the international media to visit the site and inspect for themselves.

Prince Hassan stressed that Jordan categorically denounces terrorism whatever its type or form and whoever resorts to it as it is a means that takes lives of the innocent. Prince Hassan voiced appreciation for Sudan's call on the international media to visit the targeted site and find the truth. He reiterated: "We call for dialogue and that is unacceptable to resort to force every time and then that the absence of such dialogue among nations results in such actions and reactions." The Regent on Thursday



The bomb damaged Al Shifaa pharmaceutical factory after Thursday's U.S. bombing in Khartoum, Friday (AP photo)

received a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton in which the American president denied that the military strikes on sites in Afghanistan and Sudan were targeted against Muslims and Arabs. In his message which was delivered by U.S. envoy to Jordan, William Burns, the president said these allegations are totally groundless.

President Clinton said the military strikes were aimed at destroying the infrastructure of bases used by some parties loyal to Osama Ben Laden in launch terrorist attacks that took the lives of several innocent Muslim and American people. The U.S. president said these strikes were carried out following in-depth investigations that revealed

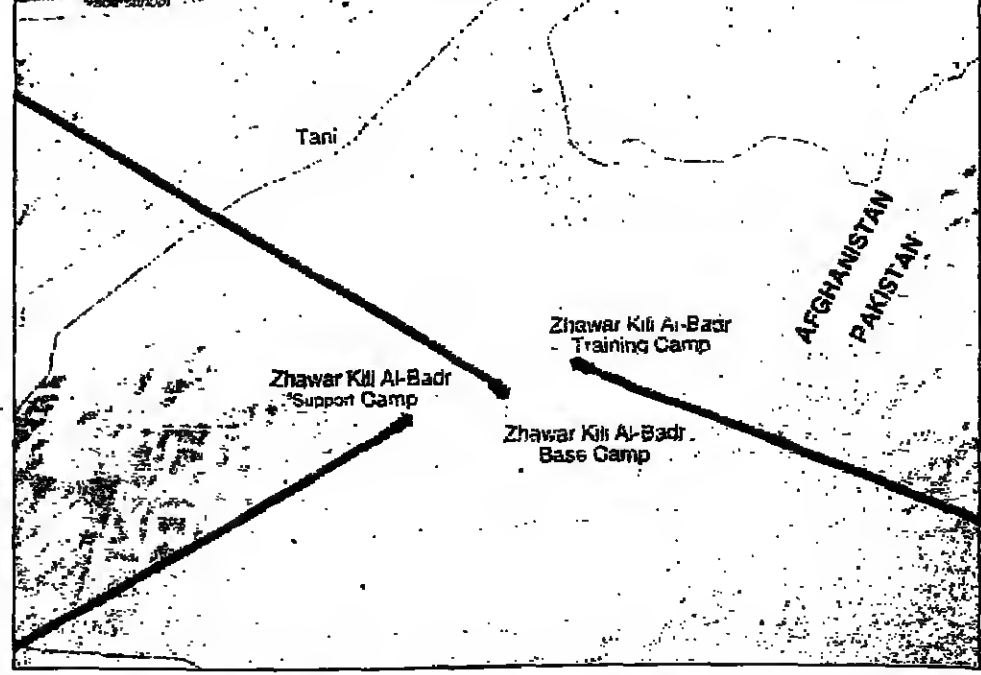
the involvement of these parties in terrorist attacks. Meanwhile, Reuters reported Information Minister Nasser Judeh as saying that Jordan reserves judgement on the military operations but calls for dialogue instead of escalating violence.

(Continued on page 5)

Bombed pharmaceutical complex supplied medicine to Iraq — U.N. U.S.: Missiles targeted 'terrorist university'

Agencies

THE UNITED Nations on Friday confirmed that a Sudanese factory hit Thursday by U.S. cruise missiles had a contract to deliver humanitarian supplies to Iraq. U.N. spokesman John Mills told AFP that a contract for \$200,000 worth of humanitarian pharmaceuticals had been approved by the U.N. Sanctions Committee in January. However, the supplies had not yet been delivered to Iraq, he said. Sudanese state television said Friday the pharmaceutical complex of Al Shifaa supplied medicine to Iraq under the U.N. approved oil-for-food programme. The complex produced 50 per cent of the medicines in Sudan and participated in the U.N. programme under which Iraq is permitted to sell limited amounts of oil to purchase humanitarian supplies to ease the effects of sanctions, it said. The complex in Khartoum represented an initial investment of \$20 million and is privately owned, mostly by Sudanese businessmen Saleh Idriss, it said. Idriss reportedly made a fortune in Saudi Arabia and



A Pentagon graphic details the site of the U.S. military attack against what was described as an Islamist training facility in Afghanistan (Reuters photo)

also holds Saudi citizenship. Al Shifaa was opened in July last year in a ceremony attended by the British ambassador, the report said. It is a complex of three factories spreading over 16,000-square meters in an industrial zone surrounded by residential districts. The Sudanese embassy in Kenya said Friday that the plant had been partly

financed by a Nairobi-based bank owned by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. "It, with other factories, contributed to raise the level of self-sufficiency in medicines from 3-5 per cent in 1990 to more than 80 per cent after it started operation in 1996," the embassy said. In Amman, the secretary general of Jordan's main

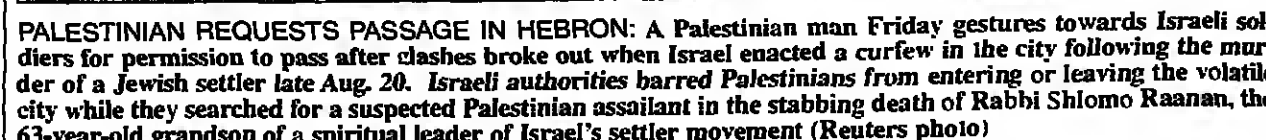
opposition party, the Islamic Action Front, told Al Arab Al Yawm newspaper that the factory was a private Jordanian-Sudanese joint venture. Abdul Latif Arabiyat said the factory which he visited in April "produced medicines and showed no sign whatsoever of military presence."

(Continued on page 5)

comment on the Yedioth report.

Earlier this week, Netanyahu summoned a key cabinet hawk, Ariel Sharon, to a resort in northern Israel where he is vacationing to brief him on developments in the negotiations with the Palestinians.

Sharon's spokesman, Raanan Gissin, could not confirm that the Israeli offer has been put in writing. However, Sharon told reporters earlier this week that the Palestinians already know that Israel is prepared to band over 13 per cent of the territory.



The Iqlim Al Tuffah, injuring an elderly Lebanese civilian, the police said.

Hassan Nadar, 70, was wounded by shrapnel from shells which slammed into the village of Arab Salim, where two homes and a car were also damaged, police said.

The violence came amid a recent sharp upsurge in fighting across the Israeli occupied "security zone." An Israeli soldier was killed and four wounded in a similar bomb attack on Wednesday.

Twelve Israelis have been killed this year in southern Lebanon, where the Jewish state maintains a buffer zone to prevent attacks by anti-Israelis on northern Israel.

Fourteen Lebanese civilians have been killed and 71 wounded in the same period,

did not say who had planted the bombs.

"A homemade bomb exploded on Friday at 8.40 a.m. on the beach of El Marsa in the province of Ech Cheliff. A preliminary report said that two were killed," the statement said. It added a second explosion injured two at Cherchell beach in Tipaza province at 11.25 a.m. local time.

But an El Marsa resident said the bomb there exploded last night, killing two Islamists who were trying to bury it in the sand.

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could nurse the Kahalani line in final border," the Union Minister said. "The far-right message such as barricades are infused with a duty to remove all that we want to be continuous line."

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TEHRAN (AFP) — An earthquake measuring 5.4 degrees on the Richter scale struck central Iran on Friday, the official IRNA news agency reported, citing the geophysics centre of Tehran University. There was no immediate word on casualties or damage from the quake, which hit regions around Tuzserkan.

08:20 Aqaba arriving at QMA
and proceeding to Marka Airport
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08:00 Aqaba arriving at Marka
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Other Flights

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15:50 Vienna (OS)
19:00 Dubai (EK)
20:00 Beirut (MEI)
00:40	Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
13:10 Belgrade (JY)
03:00 Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW)
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09:30 Aqaba (from Marka Air-
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21:30 Aqaba (from QALAI) (RW)



REGENT PERFORMS FRIDAY PRAYERS: HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, performs Friday prayers at Huteifa Mosque in the Tareq area of Amman. The sermon, which was delivered by Hamdi Murad from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, was dedicated to the tolerance of Islam and its denunciation of terrorism. The sermon was also dedicated to His Majesty King Hussein's speedy recovery and safe return home. The prayers were also attended by HRH Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, HRH Prince Ali Ben Nayef, HRH Prince Rashid Ben Al Hassan, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, Royal Court Chief Jawad Anani, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi and Minister of Administrative Development and Parliamentary Affairs Bassam Emoush (Photo by Boghos)

Government to waive water bills for some Amman residents

By Ahmad Khatib
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government Friday said it was studying ways to exempt residents of western Amman, at the heart of the six-week-old water contamination crisis, from paying water bills for the months of July through September in line with a request by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

"We are looking into a mechanism to implement the Regent's orders... the Finance Ministry should submit a proposal on that," Information Minister Nasser Judeh said after the cabinet of Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh held its first meeting after it was sworn in on Thursday.

He gave no further details. Prince Hassan on Thursday said western Amman residents should not pay water bills for these three months because they received tainted domestic water supplies from the Zai Water Treatment Plant (ZWP), local newspapers reported.

Prince Hassan also asked

the government to make public a 100-page report on the water crisis that was prepared by a government committee formed on Aug. 4 on the orders of the Regent.

The committee submitted its findings to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali hours before he resigned late Wednesday. Officials said the report blamed former Water Minister Munther Haddadin as well as Munther Khleifat, secretary general of the Water Authority, for the crisis.

However, Majali insisted on Thursday his resignation had nothing to do with the report.

"The [new] cabinet is expected to discuss the water report on Saturday," Judeh said.

Officials said the water report will be distributed on Saturday.

His Majesty King Hussein, in a letter to Tarawneh, concentrated on Jordan's domestic woes, including alleged corruption, poverty and unemployment. He also urged the government to work with transparency, asking the new Cabinet to give priority to wiping out

local problems.

The new Cabinet should pursue "transparency in dealing with Jordanians and inform them of all facts," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the King as saying.

"The government's decisions should be based on accurate information and statistics," King Hussein wrote.

The water crisis climaxed on August 9 with the resignation of Haddadin, who was immediately replaced by then Energy Minister Mohammad Saleh Hourani.

Haddadin enraged many people by responding to the water problem with a series of contradictory statements — initially blaming it on unusual levels of algae and then on operational and human errors at the ZWP.

A number of reports that were leaked to the press claiming high concentrations of algae and faecal coliforms in water sources increased popular worry.

Hani Mulki, then minister of industry, trade and supply, took over as minister of water, energy and mineral resources in Tarawneh's cabinet.

Editor of weekly satirical paper released after 10-day detention

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The chief editor of the satirical weekly *Abed Rabbo*, Hussein Emoush, was released Thursday afternoon after 10 days in detention, the weekly's managing editor said Friday.

Osama Rameeni told the Jordan Times that Prosecutor General Mohammad Harashbeh had charged Hussein Emoush with slandering Minister of Urban and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kreishan.

Harashbeh had placed Emoush under arrest for two weeks pending investigation.

According to Rameeni, *Abed Rabbo*'s 67th issue had a photo collage depicting the minister surrounded by two girls at a conference

on rural affairs he attended in Italy.

"Minister Kreishan was offended by the collage and felt it was a direct slander to his personal image and an infringement on his privacy," Rameeni added.

He said the minister told the paper it harmed his reputation on both the personal and public level and that it caused him family problems.

However, after reaching a settlement with Kreishan, Emoush was released on bail, Rameeni said.

Emoush was arrested on August 10 by police officers carrying an arrest and search warrant.

The Jordan Press Association (JPA) and several human rights organisations, including the Paris-based *Reporters Sans Frontiers*, expressed concern over the manner and timing of

Emoush's arrest and called for his immediate release.

Abed Rabbo has in the last several editions attacked several government officials and placed them under fire for what was described by Rameeni as their "latest fiascos," including mishandling the economy, tightening public freedoms and the water contamination crisis.

It also published superimposed pictures of officials which according to Rameeni must have irritated them.

Emoush, father of two baby girls, has been detained twice in the past three months.

On June 2, he was charged with lese majeste for an article entitled "Be Damned." He was later found innocent of the charge.

Then on July 2 he was charged with slandering the government over the same article.

Tarawneh becomes prime minister after history of government service

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, 49, is a U.S.-educated economist and a centrist politician with a long history of government service.

His public profile was given a strong boost when His Majesty King Hussein asked him to head Jordan's peace negotiating team with Israel in 1993. After a year of intense and low-profile talks, Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty that ended a 46-year state of war and opened the door for normalisation on all levels.

Many politicians said Tarawneh, who served as Royal Court chief for six months before his appoint-

ment as prime minister on Thursday, has had a sound grooming for his new post, including a four-year tenure as Jordan's ambassador to the United States.

Born in Karak, he hails from a prominent 23,000-member tribe.

His father, Ahmad, who died last week at the age of 78, held nine cabinet posts and twice served as Royal Court chief in the 1960s and 1970s.

Tarawneh obtained his high school degree from the Bishop School for Boys in Jordan and graduated from the University of Jordan with a B.A. in economy and business in 1971.

He obtained a masters and doctorate in economics in 1980 from the University of Southern California.



In between served as assistant chief of protocol and as director of the office of the late Queen Alia.

secretary to the prime minister. In January 1988, then Prime Minister Zeid Rifai appointed him as minister of state for prime ministry affairs and in December of that year as minister of supply.

When Rifai's government resigned in February 1989 after price riots in the southern town of Tafleeh and other areas, he served as chairman of the board of the private-run Arab Contractors Company and as member of the board of directors of the Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Company.

After the U.S.-led Middle East peace process was launched in Madrid in November 1991, Tarawneh became a peace negotiator and served as head of the

team to the steering committee supervising multilateral peace talks with Israel.

He also served as ambassador to Washington from December 1992 until he took over as foreign minister on March 18, 1997, when Abdul Salam Majali was asked to form a new government following the resignation of Abdul Karim Kabariti.

When Majali reshuffled his cabinet on Feb. 18, 1997, Tarawneh replaced Awn Khasawneh as Royal Court chief.

Tarawneh, who belongs to a younger generation of politicians, and his wife Ruweida Murad, a Jerusalemite, have three children — Alia, Zeid, and Dima.

First-time ministers in Tarawneh government



Nael Ajlouni



Nabil Ammari



Samih Bino



Fawzi Gharaibeh



Nasser Judeh

Minister of Health Nael Ajlouni was born in Amman in 1939. He completed high school at Al Hussein College in Amman. He graduated from the American University in Beirut with a degree in medicine. In 1967, he completed his specialisation in surgery in London and in 1972 also specialised in plastic surgery.

He has held various positions in the Royal Medical Services, attaining the rank of brigadier and later RMS chief. Upon retirement, he worked at the National Medical Institution as an assistant general manager and later as general manager.

Ajlouni continued his work in plastic surgery at his private practice. He has received a number of medals.

Ajlouni is married and has four children.



Michel Marto



Nayef Qadi

the Kingdom's entry into the Euro-Med Partnership Agreement and has also been leading the delegation negotiating Jordan's entry into the World Trade Organisation.

Ammari is married and has two daughters.

University, where he took a Bachelors degree with honours in the late sixties.

Gharaibeh continued his studies in the United States and took a Masters degree from Texas Tech University and a Ph.D. in economics and financial administration from Wisconsin State University in 1971.

Gharaibeh's professional life began in academia in 1972 in the Kingdom's first institute of higher learning, the University of Jordan. During his service there, he was appointed as dean of the College of Commerce and Economics in 1983. In 1986, he was appointed as UJ vice president and later in 1991 became the university's president, a post which he filled until his appointment as education minister.

He holds an Independence (Istiqal) Medal and has published a number of studies on economics and financial administration, including "Economics of the West Bank and Gaza" and "The Bedouin of Jordan."

Gharaibeh is married and has two daughters and a son.

Minister of Education Fawzi Gharaibeh was born in Huwarah, a village near Irbid, in 1942. He finished school in Irbid and travelled to Egypt to study at Cairo

United Kingdom. He received a B.Sc. degree in Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Judeh has served at the Royal Hashemite Court, first in His Majesty King Hussein's press office from 1985-1986 and subsequently as private secretary to HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, from 1986-1992.

In 1992, he was posted to London to establish and head the Jordan Information Bureau there. Judeh returned to Jordan in October 1994 to assume the position of director of Jordan Television, and in March 1998 he was appointed by Royal Decree as director general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation.

Judeh is married and has four children.

Minister of Finance Michel Marto was born in Jerusalem in 1940. He received a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Southern California in 1970.

Marto was vice president of the Central Bank of Jordan from 1989-1997, during which time he also chaired the board of both the Industrial Development Bank and the Jordan Mortgage and Finance Company.

Marto also held executive positions at the Bank of Jordan, including assistant general manager from 1979-1986 and general manager from 1986-1989. He also held the position of assistant general manager of Jordan Cement Company from 1977-1979.

Marto has been actively involved in the academic side of his speciality, with experience as an economic researcher for various local and international institutions. He was a researcher for the World Bank from 1975-1977 and served as economic advisor to HRH Crown

Prince Hassan, the Regent, as well as manager of the Royal Scientific Society's Economic Research Department. Marto was a researcher for the Jordan Monetary Council and the Jordanian Reconstruction Council from 1963-1964, and later served as head of the research department at the Central Bank of Jordan from 1969-1970.

Marto was a member of the team that took part in the negotiations which led to the 1994 peace treaty with Israel. He also participated in negotiations with both the London Club and the Paris Club. He has played an active role in laying and implementing the country's economic and reform policies that were adapted to reinforce Jordan's ties with international agencies, particularly the International Monetary Fund.

Minister of Interior Nayef Qadi was born in Hoshia in 1944. Qadi is a career diplomat with nearly 30 years of experience, primarily in the Arab World.

He received his Bachelors degree in political science from Baghdad University. Qadi's first foreign posting was deputy chief of mission at Jordan's embassy in Iraq in 1969. He served as consul at the Jordanian mission in London in 1973 and became deputy chief of mission in Beirut in 1983.

In 1980, he served as Jordan's representative to the Arab League in Tunisia. He was appointed Jordanian ambassador to Qatar in 1989 and ambassador to Egypt in 1993.

Qadi was among the delegation that negotiated the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which was signed in 1994. He also served as a member of the Senate.

Qadi is married with three children.

WHAT'S GOING ON

SUMMER '98 FESTIVAL
"Summer '98" cultural activities at Dana Al Faraj, Jabal Weibdeh, to last until Sept. 30, include:
EXHIBITIONS
* Graphic art from Lebanon (south hall), works by Lebanese artist Youssef Aoun (middle hall), works by Jordanian artist Sahel Hani (north hall) at the Main House.
* Works by Iraqi artist Samir Usama (main hall), works by Jordanian artist Said Haddadin (small hall) at the Blue House.
* Installation works by Jordanian artist Samia Zaru at the Byzantine Church.
* Exhibition of photographs "Memo-

ry of a Place" by Jordanian artist Hussein Da'eh at the Museum.
LECTURE
"Neolithic Use of the Desert Margins" by Dr. Leslie Quintero, Dr. Gary Rolleston, and Dr. Philip Wicks at the American Center of Oriental Research, near the University of Jordan at 7:00 p.m. (Tel. 534-6117).
EXHIBITIONS
* Exhibition of wrought iron furniture by Jordanian artist Salim Al Baidak at Al Baithar Hall, Kan Zaman village (Tel. 5862531), until Sept. 17.
* Summer display of products at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre/Noor Al Hussein Foundation, off Wadi Saqra (Tel. 569-9141/2).

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three international press freedoms groups yesterday issued a final appeal to His Majesty King Hussein for the rejection of the press and publications law endorsed by the Upper House of Parliament last week.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, Article 19 and Reporters Sans Frontiers, based respectively in New York, London and Paris, issued a letter to the King stating that if the final version of the law is ratified, it will endanger press freedom in Jordan.

"It is our view that through its approval of the press law, Parliament flouted Jordan's international obligation under international law to guarantee citizens the right to free expression," said

the letter, signed by the executive directors of the organisations.

"As a signatory to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Jordanian government is obligated to uphold the right of citizens to 'seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers' as stipulated under Article 19 [of the ICCPR]. We also note that the [law] contradicts your government's stated commitments to democratisation and increased public freedoms for its citizens," the letter concluded.

The executive director of Article 19, France D'Souza, said the three organisations "call upon His Majesty to ensure

that this iniquitous new law is dropped at once since its effects will not only contravene his stated intention to uphold press freedom but also Jordan's obligations to guarantee its citizens freedom of expression under international law."

The 1998 Press and Publications Law, endorsed at the Lower House of Parliament after weeks of arduous debate, last week also gained the approval of the majority of senators present. The Senate adopted the 54-article legislation after a three-hour debate. The law will be enacted pending a Royal Decree.

An attached press release held a veiled criticism of parliamentarians and government officials, saying both had

acted contrary to the instructions of the King.

"In June, the King...directed the prime minister to 'put an end to every form of censorship and restrictions on the Arab and foreign press,'" the press release said. "Now while he is abroad receiving treatment, the Jordanian parliament appears to have fast-tracked this retrogressive legislation whose effect will directly oppose the King's wishes."

The press law is a product of the government of former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who resigned Wednesday. Earlier this year, the Committee to Protect Journalists named the former prime minister as one of the "top ten enemies" of free press worldwide.

The Majali government initiated a crackdown on the press in May 1997 with the introduction of temporary amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law, which currently governs journalists. The amendments were overturned earlier this year at the High Court of Justice on the grounds that they had been enacted "unconstitutionally," and the government in turn drafted the new legislation introduced to Parliament last June.

Lower House deputies watered down the legislation considerably, but journalists, editors and human rights organisations still assert that the law will force a self-censorship regime on Jordan's newspapers.

Russian parliament calls for Yeltsin to resign over financial fiasco

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian parliament called Friday for President Boris Yeltsin to resign for failing to pull the country out of its financial crisis and caving in to pressure to devalue the ruble.

In an emergency session convened by lawmakers seeking an explanation for the government's handling of a four-month economic storm, the state Duma lower house voted 245 to 32 in favour of Yeltsin paying the ultimate penalty for Russia's economic despair.

"A resignation of the president is not just overdue, it is 10 times overdue," declared Communist Party boss Gennady Zyuganov. "I think it would be decent for Yeltsin and his whole circle to resign."

Yeltsin, who chose not to attend the session and was instead visiting a naval base near the far north city of Murmansk, brushed aside the Duma's demands.

"It's a routine procedure," Yeltsin was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying. "But don't forget, there is still a president."

Under the Russian constitution, the president can simply ignore resignation calls even if deputies vote through the resolution.

Leaders of all political stripes also urged Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko to step down and hand over control of Russia's to a coalition government that includes leftist forces.

Kiriyenko and his top aides somberly took turns at the Duma podium to defend their efforts to plug holes in the economy, and defied

anyone else to do better.

They promised to continue acting in the interests of the Russian people and their currency.

But lawmakers, furious that the cabinet gave up its fight to defend a strong currency and effectively devalued the ruble last Monday, remained sceptical that either Yeltsin or Kiriyenko's team was on the right track.

Even former cabinet allies like Alexander Shokhin, a powerful deputy speaker of parliament and leader of the centrist Our Home Is Russia bloc which has hitherto backed Kiriyenko, said a change in leadership was due.

Shokhin said he wanted Kiriyenko and Central Bank chairman Sergei Dubinin "to present their resignations themselves."

Liberal opposition leader Grigory Yavlinsky for his part expressed "absolute distrust" in the government and Yeltsin.

But Kiriyenko and his team held ground, saying neither they nor the president were going anywhere until the country's economy was pulled from its despair.

Kiriyenko, in office since March, opened his defence by quickly warning lawmakers that there were no political forces in Russia which could conjure a quick fix for the economy.

"We are only at the start of the financial crisis," Kiriyenko told lawmakers. "We will have to take further difficult decisions."

"We cannot be a popular government," he said.

The premier overrode parliamentary opposition last

month to enforce a tough austerity package in a bid to ease a government fiscal crisis which has touched off months of market turmoil.

But analysts insist a parliamentary vote in favour of the package, which includes key tax and revenue raising reforms, would help restore evaporating confidence. Parts of the anti-crisis plan return to the Duma next week.

The ruble devaluation has provoked howls of protest because it is likely to lead to higher costs on imported goods and hence inflation, while also severely hurting the banking sector.

Dubinin insisted that defence of the sagging ruble remained a top priority for the Russian government.

"Our priorities remain the same: the economic interests of the country, the economic interests of the citizens of Russia, to defend the ruble and the banking system," Dubinin said.

He conceded however that a weak ruble has already resulted in higher cost of living expenses.

"Imported goods are more expensive today than they were at any point over the past nine months," Dubinin told the session, adding nonetheless that more expensive foreign products should spur on consumption of locally produced goods.

Duma speaker Gennady Seleznyov at this stage was forced to demand the floor to fall silent as Dubinin's words met with shouts of protest from sceptical deputies.



Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov gestures as he speaks during State Duma lower house session. Russia's main opposition party condemned President Boris Yeltsin and the government Friday for mishandling the country's financial crisis and urged him to quit (Reuters photo)

Secret Serb-Albanian talks on Kosovo reported

PRISTINA, Serbia (R) — Ethnic Albanians and Serbs were reported Friday to have held secret face-to-face peace talks in Kosovo despite a U.S. envoy saying such discussions were unlikely at this stage.

"The talks between the Albanian and Serb sides are underway," Fehmi Agani, head of the separatist Kosovo Albanians' negotiating team, was quoted as saying in the English-language edition of the ethnic Albanian daily Koha Ditore.

The paper said Agani spoke after meeting U.S. envoy Chris Hill, who told reporters Thursday he was only trying to narrow differences between Serb authorities and separatist Kosovo Albanians, and not to set a date for direct talks.

But sources close to the Serb delegation confirmed direct talks did take place earlier this week.

"They were held secretly, on the same day when the Albanian negotiating team did not show up for an official meeting," said a Serb source, who demanded anonymity.

The talks, in which Hill is acting as chief go-between, are intended to end six months of violence in the southern Serbian province where ethnic Albanians are

fighting for independence.

More than 500 people have been killed and relief agencies say some 10 per cent of the province's two million population, 90 per cent of whom are ethnic Albanians, have been forced out of their homes and farms.

Ibrahim Rugova, the main ethnic Albanian political leader and an advocate of passive resistance to Serb rule, suspended talks in June.

He agreed to restart them after Serb security forces wiped out virtually all the territorial gains made in six months of fighting by rebels of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), with whom Rugova denies having any connection.

According to Koha Ditore, Agani said talks also were held the very day that Ratko Markovic, head of the Serb delegation, sent a letter to him offering a dialogue to the Albanian team.

Agani wrote back saying violence against the civilian population in the province had to stop and Serb security forces had to withdraw before the talks could resume.

Koha Ditore quoted Agani as saying "talks went on, regardless of the weird correspondence."

The paper gave no details of what was discussed.

An acknowledged obstacle

in any peace talks is the lack of KLA representation, even though many Kosovans now believe only violence will free them from a decade-long repression that began when Serbia revoked the province's autonomy in 1989.

Adem Demaqi, a former long-time Kosovar political prisoner and head of the Parliamentary Party of Kosovo, has refused to join Rugova's Western-sponsored negotiating team and has recently been appointed as the KLA political representative.

"He (Demaqi) has told us that he feels armed struggle is a more fruitful course than negotiations and we have respectfully but firmly disagreed with him," a senior Western diplomat said.

Demaqi told Croatian Television that the KLA had only made a tactical retreat during a month-long offensive by overwhelmingly better armed Serb troops. He said the rebels remained a viable fighting force.

"The KLA passed a maturity test when it refused to fight for certain territories... When it realised... that it could not defend itself at the present moment it adroitly withdrew," he said.

Rugova calls for no-fly zone over the province

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AFP) — The leader of the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, Ibrahim Rugova, called Friday for a "no-fly zone" over the province and an immediate end to a Serb offensive there which he said had forced 300,000 people from their homes.

"We urge international protection for Kosovo, especially from the U.S., EU, U.N. and NATO and we urge for imposing of a no-fly zone over Kosovo," Rugova told reporters in the capital Pristina.

He added that since March "when Serb assaults and offensive started, around 300,000 people have moved out of their homes."

"This has brought about a grave humanitarian situation," Rugova said, urging for the "return of refugees and displaced people to their homes, under the international protection."

International agencies estimate that some 230,000 people — more than one-tenth of the province's population — have fled their homes since the Serb government crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists, while more than 500 people, mostly Albanians, have been killed since the end of February.

Rugova accused Belgrade of using "planes and helicopters" during the Serb offensive on the former rebel stronghold of Junik, a village in western Kosovo, and said that "dozens of people have

been killed and dozens wounded" there.

"Serb violence and repression has continued in Kosovo... We urge cessation of Serb military machinery," Rugova said.

He added that "situation in Kosovo remains dangerous and grave and the offensive of Serb military and police forces has continued... Numerous villages in central and western Kosovo have been shelled."

Rugova reiterated his position that the best solution for Kosovo "is its independence, with all guarantees for local Serbs through an international protectorate as a transitional phase."

He commented that the purpose of indirect peace talks with Belgrade, which have been going on for weeks, was to lay the ground for a provisional agreement which might in turn produce face-to-face negotiations and "produce concrete results in Kosovo."

The indirect talks are brokered and supervised by U.S. envoy Christopher Hill, who said Thursday in Pristina that there was "no need" for direct talks between Belgrade and Kosovo Albanians for the time being since the negotiation process was "moving ahead."

"We may need, at some point, direct talks (between the two sides). Now indirect talks are needed and when the time comes we are going to bring them for direct talks,"

Hill said after his talks in Pristina.

Hill, U.S. ambassador in Macedonia, has pursued efforts for peace talks despite a refusal by Kosovo's ethnic Albanian representatives to meet directly with a Belgrade government delegation.

The U.S. envoy, who has been shuttling between Belgrade and the Kosovo Albanians in recent weeks, said that "the progress of negotiations and ways of acceleration of the (negotiation) process" were discussed during his meetings in Pristina.

The Kosovo Albanian independent daily Koha Ditore reported that Serb attacks had been going Thursday in western and central Kosovo, while "strong fighting continued" in southern Kosovo, around Suva Reka, on the road connecting the capital Pristina and Prizren.

"At least four Albanians were killed and eight were wounded in Suva Reka," Koha reported, without giving details.

It said that the village of Zociste, which Serb forces claimed to have recaptured Wednesday, "has been shelled for two days."

Serb sources indirectly confirmed this report, saying that one Serb policeman was killed and one was wounded Thursday in an attack by the underground Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Myanmar opposition group calls for national revolt

BANGKOK (AFP) — A leading Myanmar opposition group Friday called for a nationwide revolt after the country's junta failed to bow to demands to convene parliament. The Thailand-based All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), one of the biggest and most influential of the scores of Myanmar opposition organisations, said the junta had ignored the will of the people and the international community by failing to band over power to pro-democracy forces. "We therefore call on the people to begin an uprising, starting Aug. 21, to bring democracy and human rights to Burma," the ABSDF said in a statement, using the former official name for Myanmar. "We believe that there is no reason to continue to ask the military for democracy and that the only way forward is through a people's movement." The statement came as the leading National League for Democracy (NLD) pledged to convene the parliament elected in 1990 but never allowed to sit. The NLD-led opposition, headed by Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, won 1990 polls by a landslide but the junta has refused to relinquish power.

U.N. repatriates 4,000 Sierra Leoneans

FREETOWN (AFP) — The U.N. refugee agency has flown or sent home by boat around 4,000 Sierra Leonean refugees from the neighbouring West African states of Guinea and Gambia. U.N. officials said Friday. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) repatriated them "at the request of the Sierra Leone government which wants professionals to return home to help build the economy." UNHCR official Uesuebe Hounsohou said. Some had fled their country after a civil war erupted in 1991 while others left after the democratically elected government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was overthrown last year. The coup officers were in turn ousted in February, making way for Kabbah's return.

3 Russian villages say they are joining Chechnya

MOSCOW (AFP) — Villagers of three towns in the southern Russian region of Dagestan have declared they will secede from Russia and join neighbouring Chechnya, news agencies reported Friday. The three villages have also announced that they intended to scrap the Russian constitution and follow the rules of Islamic Sharia law. ITAR-TASS reported Friday. Senior ministers from Dagestan, a turbulent multi-ethnic republic bordering Chechnya, have been dispatched to the region's Buinaksk district to negotiate with the locals, the agency said. Chechnya is a predominantly Muslim republic that fought a bloody 21-month war for independence from Russia ending in a 1996 truce giving Chechnya de facto independence from Moscow rule. It has been overrun by violence and clan warfare that authorities in Moscow fear may spill over into Dagestan and neighbouring southern Russia republics, which are among the poorest in the country. The reports did not specify how the three villages made their announcement about a decision to secede, or whether Chechen authorities have issued any response.

Moderate drinking has negative effect on female fertility

LONDON (AFP) — Women who drink just one glass of wine a day are half as likely to get pregnant as those who abstain altogether from alcohol, a British medical journal has reported. The study, published in the British Medical Journal this week, is the first to suggest that moderate drinking can affect women's fertility. It is known that heavy drinking reduces a woman's prospects of getting pregnant but until now it was thought that the occasional glass of wine or beer carried no risk. The latest investigation carried out by researchers in Denmark, who studied 430 couples aged 20-35 trying to conceive, found that those who drank six to 10 units of alcohol a week reduced their chances of doing so by a half. Drinking one to five units, equivalent to one glass of wine, 30 centilitres of beer, or 15 centilitres of spirits, reduced a woman's chances of conceiving by a third. Researchers found conversely that drinking appeared to have no negative effect on men's fertility.

China frees dissident after month's detention

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese dissident Zhang Shuangang was freed Friday after being detained for a month for demanding the freedom to form unions, a pro-democracy group said. Zhang was arrested July 22 in Xupu in the southern province of Hunan as he was trying to set up a union to help millions of workers who have lost their jobs in China's sweeping reforms of the state sector. In a statement from New York, the overseas-based China Democracy Party said Zhang was released during the morning. Some 20 dissidents were arrested by police last month only days after a ground breaking visit by U.S. President Bill Clinton. One of the dissidents, Wang Youcai, has been formally charged with "attempted subversion" for trying to set up a separate party, the China Democracy Party.

Detergent-free laundry machine invented in S. Korea

SEOUL (AFP) — A South Korean venture capital company claimed Friday that it had developed the world's first detergent-free washing machine, which it said would greatly help reduce water pollution. Kyungwon Life and Science Research Institute developed the new laundry system by applying its own water-purifying technology, said a spokesman for ShinDongBang Corp., which has the right to market the new laundry system. The invention, which immediately made headlines here, cost ShinDongBang five billion won (\$3.8 million) over the past seven years, the spokesman said. The new laundry machines will come out to the market early next year. "This laundry system does not use any detergent at all. It will drastically reduce water pollution," Kim Hee-Jung, the research institute head, told journalists. The machine also uses less water and energy than traditional laundry machines as it does not need a rinse cycle, he said. Tests of the new machine by technicians from South Korea's giant Daewoo Electronics Co. produced satisfactory results, news reports here said. The system changes the nature of water by using layers of special catalysts planted without causing pollution, she said. "Changing the nature of water is like a god's work. So, I named it the new system 'Midas,'" she said.

New souring of China-Taiwan relations casts pall over meeting

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan urged China to "face the fact" of their political division Friday, amid a new souring of relations that has cast a shadow over an upcoming meeting between their top negotiators.

Responding to new demands from China that Taipei accept Beijing's sovereignty over it, official Sheu Ke-Sheng said separation between the sides was a "political reality and historical fact."

"Since 1949, the territory of China has been divided between two equal political entities," said Sheu, secretary general of the Cabinet's Mainland Affairs Council.

In another sign of added stress in their already strained relationship, Taiwanese immigration officials rejected applications from 13 Chinese scholars to attend a confer-

ence on Taiwan-China relations in Taipei, saying "scholarship on the cross-strait issue at this stage attracts much political controversy," the United Evening News reported.

In a letter Friday, China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait expressed its strong opposition to the concepts of "separate governments on the two sides of the straits," and "temporary two Chinas."

The association again demanded Taiwan agree to negotiations on an agenda for discussing political topics related to reunification, an idea Taiwan rejects in favour of first crafting agreements on practical issues.

Taiwan and China separated politically in 1949 when the Nationalists fled the Communist takeover of the mainland, and Beijing contin-

ues to claim Taiwan as a breakaway province to be reunified with eventually.

While rejecting the letter's content, Sheu said the dispute should not affect plans for a casual meeting in September or October in Beijing between the sides' top negotiators.

Expectations for the long awaited meeting between Koo Chen-fu, chairman of the semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation and his ARATS counterpart Wang Daohan have come under a cloud in recent weeks following the murder of a Taiwanese politician in China.

Beijing's refusal to allow foundation officials to accompany the victim's relatives to help with arrangements reawakened anger here over Beijing's perceived callous treatment of Taiwanese in China.

Japanese scientists clone calf

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese scientists said Friday they had produced the world's first calf cloned from an adult bull's ear but the new-born, known only as Y-35, was weak and had stopped breathing several times.

The technique was the same as that used by British scientists who produced Dolly the cloned sheep, snuffing the world with her birth on July 5, 1996, they said.

The male calf was born by caesarean section Tuesday at the Kagoshima Prefectural Cattle Breeding Development Institute in southern Japan, said institute chief Takaharu Yoshiya.

DNA tests showed the calf, which weighed slightly more than normal at 40 kilograms at birth, was identical to the bull whose ear led to its conception. It was the world's first calf to be produced by the technique using a skin cell taken from the ear of a black bull, rather than from a uterine tube or an embryo.

Soon after birth, the calf stopped breathing several times and suffered severe diarrhoea. After antibiotic treatment it was now in a stable condition, Yoshiya said, adding that Y-35 would be officially named next

week.

"As far as the cloning technique is concerned, I find there are few difficulties," Yoshiya said. "The difficult part comes after the birth since many cloned calves including ours are weak."

"I think we have cleared the first hurdle and what we must move on from here is to turn them (cloned calves) into healthy cows," he said.

Yoshiya said he starved the ear skin cell to awaken its entire reproductive functions, the same technique used for Dolly, but declined to say how long the cell was deprived of nutrients.

The cell was then implanted in an unfertilised egg from which the nucleus had been removed and both the egg and the cell were fused by an electronic stimulus that produced the equivalent of a fertilised egg.

Then the egg was then implanted in the womb of a surrogate cow, which was faring well after the birth, Yoshiya said.

"It was significant in the sense that it is much easier to take cells from ear skin than from a uterine tube or an embryo," Yoshiya told AFP.

Researchers said they did not know if Y-35's ill health was related to the cloning or a simple

infection.

Japan had already produced eight cloned calves since July 5 using uterine cells taken from adult cows at the Ishikawa Prefectural Livestock Research Institute, northwest of Tokyo, but four of them have since died. Cloned calves had been reported previously using embryonic cells in the United States and Britain but Y-35 was the first to be cloned from an adult skin cell.

Japan last year decided on a policy of banning clone studies on humans, while promoting them on livestock. But there is no legislation banning human cloning in Japan.

Britain's Roslin Institute, the birthplace of Dolly who remains healthy, is trying to "manufacture" pigs missing a specific gene, which provokes rejection of their organs — such as the heart or liver — by the human body.

The Edinburgh-based institute also aims to create animals genetically modified to produce milk containing key proteins which help fight illnesses, such as haemophilia or cystic fibrosis.



Crowds cheer as former State President PW Botha is convicted in the case brought against him by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Botha was found guilty of defying a summons from the TRC to appear before it to answer questions relating to human rights violations committed under apartheid (Reuters photo)

Botha, 82, given suspended jail sentence

GEORGE, South Africa (AFP) — Apartheid-era president P.W. Botha, 82, was given a suspended jail sentence of one year and a 10,000 rand (\$1,600) fine after a magistrate's court here found him guilty of contempt of South Africa's Truth Commission.

The 12-month term was suspended for five years, Magistrate Victor Lugaju said.

Botha faces a 12-month jail term if he refuses to pay the fine.

His lawyer Lappe

Laushner told the court the former president plans to appeal the conviction and sentence.

Botha was released on bail of 50 rands (\$9).

The conviction proved that no one was above the law, said the deputy chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Alex Boraine.

"The strenuous attempts made to persuade Mr. Botha to appear before us, and his subsequent trial on charges of refusing to do

so, demonstrate in a concrete way that we now have a society in which no one is above the law," Boraine told a press conference in Cape Town.

"Mr. Botha has been publicly held accountable for his actions in a court of law, and he has been afforded every opportunity to defend himself — something which was often denied to his political opponents during the years of his rule," Boraine said.

"We are sad that Mr. Botha refused the opportunity

of appearing before the TRC, an opportunity that was taken advantage of by many of his former colleagues and other political leaders."

The TRC's human rights violations committee, which subpoenaed Botha, has completed its hearings and will therefore be unable to recall the former president.

But the possibility remains that Botha could be subpoenaed to appear before the TRC's amnesty committee.

New Cabinet faces tasks of restoring confidence, reforming economy and ensuring transparency

(Continued from page 1)

The government's attempt to hide the truth on the extent and circumstances of the water contamination crisis increased direct calls for the cabinet's resignation, a new phenomenon in the country's politics, although Majali told reporters on Thursday that he was satisfied with his government's performance and denied that the water crisis was a reason behind his resignation.

Among those expressing hope that the new government will initiate a fresh chapter in relations with the people and institutions was Lower House Speaker Sa'ed Havel Srour.

"We hope this government will pay more attention to what goes on in Parliament and seek more cooperation with the House," Srour told the Jordan Times yesterday.

The Tarawneh government will have a two-month respite before going to Parliament for a vote of confidence first, and then for the endorsement of the budget, between November and December.

Tarawneh, who for the first time in the history of Jordan was sworn in before HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, empowered by a Royal Decree last week to appoint a new government, is scheduled to travel to the U.S. on Sunday to visit the King at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where he is undergoing chemotherapy.

Among the new-comers in Tarawneh's team are former Central Bank Deputy Governor Michel Marto, who was appointed finance minister, and former Planning Ministry Secretary General Nabil Ammari, who took over planning.

The economic team chosen by Tarawneh, himself a U.S.-educated economist, also includes Taher Kana'an, a development economist and former planning minister, who was entrusted with the new portfolio of economic development.

Economist and political commentator Fahed Fanek said the government will

have the advantage of not being under pressure, "since everybody knows how bad the economic situation is."

The government, he said, "will score many points with any small success."

"The new economic team is excellent. This is the best line-up, and, if there is anything that could be done, this team will do it," Fanek said.

In the designation letter to Tarawneh on Wednesday, the King also entrusted the new government with fighting unemployment, unofficially placed at 27 per cent.

Government watchers noted that many of the new ministers were associates of Tarawneh — a factor expected to ensure harmony in policies.

They also noted that the posts of deputy prime ministers were abolished to avoid the risk of rivalries and conflicts in jurisdiction evident during the Majali government.

The press welcomed the appointment of Nasser Judeh, 38, as information minister, who headed the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation and replaces Abdullah Ensour.

"Judeh is known for his open-mindedness, which reflects the ideas of HRH Crown Prince Hassan," said Seif Sharif, president of the Jordan Press Association, which has been engaged in a fierce battle with the previous government over a stringent press and publications law, endorsed by Parliament last week.

"We are extremely happy, we feel he is one of us," Sharif said.

"Now we only hope that he will not activate the harshest provisions in the [press and publications] law."

The recent press law, still awaiting Royal ratification, has been widely criticised for its ambiguous language and harsh penalties.

Tarawneh's choice of a senior intelligence officer, Samih Bino, as state minister for prime ministry affairs is seen by observers as "aimed at stressing transparency and clarity."

Bino has for the past three years headed the anti-cor-

ruption unit at the General Intelligence Department.

Analysts said no change in foreign policy should be expected.

In his directive, the King only reiterated Jordan's commitment to peace and its long-standing policy of support for the Palestinians, but did not mention Israel.

The foreign affairs portfolio, held under Majali government by now Royal Court Chief Jawad Anani, has been taken by Abdul Illah Khadih, a former minister of tourism and long time official at the Foreign Ministry.

Anani was expected to submit his resignation from the Senate in line with the Constitution, which bans Royal Court chiefs from serving in the Upper House.

Minister of Finance Suleiman Hafez moved to communications, while former Industry and Trade Minister Hani Mulki was entrusted with the portfolios of water and energy.

Mohammad Saleh Hourani, who temporarily replaced former Water Minister Haddadin after his resignation, moved from energy to trade.

Independent Islamist Bassam Emmoush, expelled from the Muslim Brotherhood for his moderate stands, added to his portfolio of administrative development the new post of minister of state for parliamentary affairs.

The Tarawneh cabinet includes four senators: Jawdat Shoul, sworn in as justice minister, Kana'an, Tawfiq Kreishan, who retained his portfolio of municipal and rural affairs and the environment, and former Ambassador to Egypt Nayef Qadi in the key-post of interior minister.

In the designation letter published on Thursday, the King also called for a fresh start in government-opposition relations, stalled since last year's decision by the Islamic-led opposition to boycott the November elections.

"We have to build a civic democratic society and the government should be open to all political parties and

interact with them, exchanging consultation and advice on the nation's affairs," the King said.

"We should not surprise the public with major decisions without ample preparation and without studying their different aspects."

The Majali government enraged the opposition, intellectuals and professionals, by being less transparent than the King intended it to be, observers said.

Tarawneh, meanwhile, pledged in his letter to the King that his government "will translate the letter of designation into practical steps and actions without any hesitation or apprehension."

He said doors of dialogue with both government supporters and opponents will be open, and vowed to strengthen public freedoms, democracy, justice and equality.

"Addressing the problems of poverty and unemployment will be our major pre-occupation, so that we can revive hope for the poor to live a decent life and find jobs," he said.

He added that his economic team will focus on small-scale income generating projects.

Replying to the King's call for establishing a system of reward and punishment which could enhance efficiency and curb negligence in the civil service, Tarawneh said "the government will reward the good and dedicated civil servants and will help poor performers to perform as expected of them."

He stressed that his government will be guided by Prince Hassan's vision, which is regarded worldwide for its human approach to global issues and unshakeable faith in dialogue and mutual understanding as the basis for policy-making.

New Australian poll shows slump in support for Hanson

SYDNEY (AFP) — A new poll published Friday showed a fall in support for anti-Asia MP Pauline Hanson and her One Nation party and raised the hopes of Australia's political mainstream that the threat of her far-right views may be diminishing.

The poll, by the West Australian newspaper, shows One Nation's support has crashed in Western Australia, formerly one of its strongholds where it posed a serious threat in a marginal seat held by Labour opposition leader Kim Beazley.

Support for One Nation has slumped to only eight per cent from a high of 22 per cent after the Queensland state poll in which it won a quarter of the vote with its anti-immigration and anti-free trade policies.

It was the fourth poll in six weeks showing One Nation on the slide.

The principal beneficiary appears to be Prime Minister John Howard's Liberal Party as he heads for an election tipped for October.

The poll comes on the heels of another by The Australian national paper showing nationwide support for One Nation has halved to seven per cent since the Queensland election.

Both also showed support for the Liberals up since Howard's announcement two weeks ago of tax reforms boosting incomes with cuts in direct tax but introducing a consumer tax.

The West Australian suggested government support had surged 14 points to 43 per cent while The Australian assessed government support at 44 per cent, a nine percentage point turnaround this month.

The slump coincides with continuing attacks by the media and the mainstream parties on One Nation's simplistic poli-

cies and its credibility.

The latest was a damaging ABC television documentary about the party's infighting and undemocratic structure.

It also showed Hanson seemingly welcoming from her typical supporters — unsophisticated middle-aged blue-collar men — the kind of crude and sexist flattery that would horrify most modern Australian women.

Her chief political adviser David Oldfield was also recently involved in a well-publicised pub brawl over race and posed for a newspaper photographer sitting with his new girlfriend at an opening function with lipstick on his face and his hand up her thighs.

West Australia's fraud squad also last week said One Nation had filed a complaint against former members, accusing them of siphoning off funds from a branch account to sup-

port an independent candidate.

At the same time, expelled members also counter-accused One Nation of misusing membership fees, directing them to Sydney-based One Nation Limited, instead of the political party.

However, Hanson Friday dismissed the latest polling as unrepresentative and said support remained very strong throughout Australia and would recover when she released her tax package.

"People who want to get out there and strive and work hard, who may want to take on a second job, there's no incentives anymore, because you're hit with a tax at the highest rate," she said.

"A lot of people, as happened in Queensland, they will show their support for One Nation at the polling booth."

Regent discusses U.S. strikes with Sudanese vice president

(Continued from page 1)

"Our general position at this stage... is that preferably there should have been dialogue but we don't have the details so we can't categorically say that," Information Minister Nasser Judeh told Reuters.

"On the one hand we condemn terrorism and we condemn the bombing of the embassies. On the other hand we feel dialogue should be the means to solve problems, and not action-reaction kind of violence," he said.

"There should be some sort of dialogue between different nations, regardless of differences of opinion. Sudan and the United States don't have to see eye to eye on everything but we just feel that dialogue should prevail," Judeh said.

The spiritual leader of the fundamentalist Palestinian group HAMAS, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, condemned "this American aggression in Sudan, which is an attack against the whole Arab and Islamic world."

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Bombed pharmaceutical complex supplied medicine to Iraq — U.N.

(Continued from page 1)

Sudanese television quoted an official as calling Al Shifaa "the most important medicine factory in the Arab and African world." The television said its production of veterinary medicines was "enough to meet the needs of all of Africa."

Sayed Hamed, managing director of Al Shifaa, said the complex employed some 360 people.

He estimated that the plant had suffered \$100 million worth of damage. He told the official SUNA news agency that installations had been "completely destroyed."

"It was one of Africa's largest factories," Hamed said, adding that it produced 30 kinds of human drugs and 23 veterinary medicines and exported products to a number of African and Arab nations.

The managing director denied U.S. allegations that the plant was making chemical weapons for use by terrorists and said nearby facilities were also not involved in such production.

Meanwhile, military analysts were studying satellite images Friday to determine damage caused by the surprise U.S. cruise missile attacks that destroyed an alleged chemical

weapons factory in Sudan and hit a militant base in a remote region of Afghanistan.

The goal of Thursday's mission: to hammer the militant network of Osama Ben Laden, the exiled Saudi millionaire the United States believes was behind the bombings of U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, two weeks ago.

The governor of Khartoum, Majid Al Khalifa, was quoted in the Sudanese daily Alway as saying several people were killed or injured in the attack on the factory. Workers at the site said they feared some people may be trapped under the debris.

In Afghanistan, Taleban spokesman Wakil Ahmed Akhuzada said 21 people were killed and 30 were injured when cruise missiles struck the Zhawar Kili Al Badr base near Khost, about 150 kilometres southeast of Kabul.

Akhuzada also said missiles hit targets near Jalalabad, about 100 kilometres east of Kabul, though a Pentagon official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said U.S. missiles did not strike anywhere near Jalalabad.

A Pentagon official said the U.S. military had no confirmation of claims by the

Pakistani government that one of the missiles hit inside Pakistan, killing several people.

However, the official noted that the targets were as close as 1.6 kilometres to the Afghan-Pakistan border.

Defence Department officials have refused to release details of the attacks, including casualty figures, or reveal how successful the missiles were in hitting their targets.

It could take days to assess the damage, the Pentagon official said, and could be complicated because of cloud cover over Afghanistan. The U.S. military is relying on satellite imagery because there aren't intelligence sources on the ground.

Ben Laden himself was not targeted by the U.S. missile attack, according to administration officials, although President Bill Clinton said the strike was timed to coincide with a meeting of terrorist leaders at the camp. A Taleban spokesman in Afghanistan said Ben Laden was "safe and no damage has been done to any of his companions."

The Afghan camps, in mountainous territory near the Pakistani border, were described by one official as "terrorist university" with as many as 600 trainees there at times. The camp operated

with the blessing, if not outright support, of the Taleban, the Islamist faction controlling Afghanistan.

According to Clinton administration and congressional sources, from 75 to 80 medium-range Tomahawk cruise missiles were fired from U.S. ships in the Red Sea and Arabian Sea. The strike was carefully timed so that all the missiles arrived at their targets within minutes.

In Sudan, the Al Shifaa Pharmaceutical Industries Co. plant, in an industrial complex near downtown Khartoum, was producing a precursor for the deadly nerve gas. U.S. officials claimed. The fenced-in factory was guarded by Sudanese military guards and said to be partly financed by Ben Laden. These claims were rejected by the Sudanese government (See separate story).

After the missiles hit, walls collapsed, twisted metal and broken concrete were strewn around the complex and the main building burst into flames.

At the Zhawar Kili Al Badr Camp, leaders of Ben Laden's Islamist organisation were thought to be gathering for a meeting Thursday, Sandy Berger, the president's national security adviser, said.

Opinion & Analysis

Jordan Times, Saturday, August 22, 1998

Jordan Times

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Editorial and Advertising offices
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman

Telephones: 5684311, 5699634, 5667171, 5603585

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E-mail: jortimes@go.com.jo

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Clear mandate, right choice

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's letter of designation to Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh is an honest tally of the country's problems and the methods to tackle these issues. It also once again reflects the King's exuberance with the way the affairs of the country are being administered. The King's expressed confidence in Jordanians as able, intelligent people who distinguish right from wrong and truth from falsehood was a clear criticism of the way governments have so far dealt with the citizens. His call for transparency is the strongest signal to the new government that Jordanians be taken seriously and dealt with fairly when decisions that affect their lives are taken.

Thus, the still unresolved water crisis among other crises explains King Hussein's firm directive that decisions should be made on the basis of objectivity, facts and scientific data and not on the basis of the whims of officials.

Having made these two major points clear, the King turned to the debilitating problems of poverty and unemployment. It was here that the King concentrated his mandate to the new cabinet which was to be formed. Not only did his letter contain recognition of the magnitude of these problems, but also clear objection to the way previous governments addressed these problems. The King urged the government to roll up its sleeves and go the extra mile towards improving the economy and securing employment for the country's jobless. We need not go overboard in meeting the kind of economic restructuring demanded by international monetary organisations at the expense of the immediate economic needs of the people especially the have-nots. The short and intermediate requirements of the poverty-stricken must therefore be uppermost on our minds.

With these three issues in mind Prime Minister Tarawneh, no doubt aided by the King's and the Regent's insightful advice, assembled a fine team of technocrats who have behind them distinguished careers that should serve to run the country and fulfil the King's mandate. Tarawneh himself is an able and loyal politician. He is expected to lead his colleagues and the country into the 21st century.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Rai's Fakhri Kavar condemned assaults on some journalists in Jordan over the past few years. He said the attack against Nahidh Hattar, the editor in chief of Al Mithaq, was a cowardly and inhuman act. The writer said these assaults were meant to terrify those writers or even kill them. Kavar said Hattar has the right to express whatever he believes, and if he breaks the law, there is a court to punish him. If Hattar slandered someone or tried to tarnish his reputation, the victim can file a suit for compensations which might be more severe than the attack, the writer said. Hattar did not violate his right of expression so he should not be harmed, least of all in such an illegal manner. Kavar said. The writer called on the government to probe the case and take it seriously because the attackers have not been brought to justice.

Al Dustour's Jihad Momani commented on the frequent changes of Jordanian governments. He said only faces of ministers and prime ministers are changed, the problems of the country remain the same. According to Momani, some governments are given more freedom than others, and this leads to more mistakes, he said. Momani said former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali was forced to accept some ministers in his cabinet even though their history was not very bright, adding that Majali was held responsible for these ministers' mistakes. Momani said Majali is very similar to any newspaper chief editor, who, according to the press law is responsible for his staff's acts even if he did not select them or he was abroad.

Jordanian Perspective

Distinguishing between logic and arrogance

Dr. Musa Kellani

ISRAEL IS at it again, smacking the Arabs in the face by announcing a vast construction project on the occupied Golan Heights thus showing no regard for the stalled peace negotiations with Syria and the united Arab voice in support of Damascus' demand for the return of the Golan.

It should not be overlooked that the move to build more settlements and almost double the number of settlers in the Golan came one day after Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai signalled a possible softening of approach by inviting Syria to resume peace talks.

As such, it is clear a political game is at work in Israel. Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to tighten his country's grip on the occupied Golan Heights was certainly no spur-of-the-moment decision. It is evident the announcement of the project was also an instantaneous message to Mordechai and moderates like him that hardliners were not ready to play unless the Arabs accepted what Israel was willing to give them.

Former Israeli prime minister Shimon Peres, a key figure in the peace process during his tenure, sees the settlement plan as "superfluous, irritating and unnecessary....(and a) provocation." But then, it is the same mould of people like Peres and Mordechai that Sharon is seeking to destroy because of their inclination to distinguish between logic and arrogance in making peace. They have understood that real and genuine peace cannot be achieved by dictating terms. The process requires a broad mind and open approach based on the acceptance of

legitimate rights as the foundation for peace. All said and done, with the Palestinian-Israeli track deadlocked over Israel's refusal to implement agreements and the Syrian-Lebanese camp stumped over the state's blanket rejection of the land-for-peace formula, there is little incentive for the Arab World to remain engaged in the peace process. But then, the question is: What is the alternative to peaceful negotiations? Certainly no one would share the call for a holy war to liberate "all of Palestine" as the ideal answer.

Still, those who profess that approach, whether in Sudan bases or in Osama Ben Laden's cave hideouts with the Taleban, are ignoring the realities on the ground and side-stepping the disastrous consequences of another war in our midst, or any region for that matter, that prompted the Arabs to adopt the strategic option of peace and go to Madrid in 1991.

Nevertheless, Israel, under the leadership of people like Benjamin Netanyahu and Sharon, seems to be hellbent on pushing the Arabs into dropping that option which they accepted in good faith. And indeed it is reaping the fruits of its own policies and intransigence in the form of suicide bombings, armed resistance, and, more significantly, the perpetual state of fear that prevails among Israeli citizens.

Netanyahu's "peace with security" approach has achieved for the Israelis neither peace nor security. Those who are capable of achieving them are Israelis themselves who can influence the political course of their country.

The hardline faction of the Israeli bodypolitic has a strong following in the electorate, but equally strong is the camp for peace in Israel. And the latter represents an avenue of hope if only it was to be cultivated and encouraged to accept the Arab approach for peace in the same good faith that it has been forwarded. That is where Arab interaction with genuine peace-seeking Israelis is desired as an approach parallel to influencing the business community in Tel Aviv. It does not mean opening up Arab trade and business with Israel but convincing the Israelis of the benefits of peace for all. That has been and remains Jordan's approach, whether with Fayez Tarawneh as new prime minister or with Abdul Salam Majali as the former premier. But often, Jordan's position was misunderstood and criticised.

Definitely, it is not a compromise over the legitimate Arab rights, whether Palestinian, Syrian or Lebanese. It is the only way to influence Israeli politics from within — the only means to prod Israeli politicians into realising that their political future depends on arriving at a just, comprehensive and durable peace with the Arabs through realistic and meaningful negotiations rather than strategies that aim at nothing but stalling and complicating the situation. Feelings of frustration, despair and alienation are mainly Ben Laden's techniques of persuasion which made many Palestinians and Arabs follow his line now and will gain him more in future, however heavy American retaliatory bombardment might be.

Sound and fury, signifying nothing

By Gwynne Dyer

NO, OF COURSE it didn't have anything to do with diverting attention from semen-stained dresses and the like. Shame on you for even entertaining the thought. The U.S. attacks on Sudan and Afghanistan were motivated solely by the desire to strike at the roots of international terrorism.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen told us so at great length, and President Bill Clinton himself confirmed it. It was the purest coincidence that the strikes went in on the day that Monica Lewinsky testified once more before the grand jury, and to suggest otherwise would be unpatriotic, nasty, and just plain wrong.

Nevertheless, there is a little detail that has not been adequately addressed. Just bow do the people who ordered these attacks think that they are going to achieve their stated goal?

Is Osama Ben Laden going to decide that spending his billions on leading an 'Islamic jihad' against 'the Crusaders (the West) and the Jews' is too dangerous, and take up gardening instead? Is the fundamentalist Taleban regime in Afghanistan (which has lost over a million lives in the fighting of the past 15 years) going to panic and throw him out because a few more bombs fell on their territory?

Is the Sudanese regime going to drop its militantly 'Islamic' ideology, expel all the foreign militants who live there, and beg Washington's pardon if it was indeed implicated in any way in the bombing of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania last week, which remains to be seen? Is anything going to change as a result of a few American cruise missiles on a factory in north Khartoum and a few clusters of buildings in the hills south of Kabul?

No, of course not. Nothing will change. Nothing concrete has been achieved, nor could be, by this kind of strike, nor has any useful or seriously frightening message been sent to the alleged sponsors of the terrorism. Moreover, the few people in the Clinton administration in Washington who can add and do (and the rather larger number of competent professionals in the Pentagon) understand this very well.

It's not that you can never fight terrorism with air power. When Reagan sent U.S. bombers into Libya a decade ago he scored the bejesus out of Muammar Qadhafi, who promptly lost his previous enthusiasm for acts of international terrorism and has yet to regain it. But that was a big, serious raid, and one of its explicit aims was to kill Qadhafi himself as he slept. (It did kill his adopted daughter, and several other people close to him.)

This stuff, by contrast, is just spitting in the wind. The 'six sites' in Osama Ben Laden's 'terrorist complex' in Afghanistan contained at most 600 people on a busy day (out of the 5-6,000 that the U.S. estimates are financed by Ben Laden), and there were no heavy or exotic weapons there. If a few hundred foot-soldiers of his Jihad have been 'martyred' by the raid, what has Ben Laden lost?

The 'chemical weapons factory' in Khartoum may actually have been making

what Washington says it was. (Or it may not: intelligence on these matters is always dodgy.) But if the Sudanese government was truly complicit in this activity, then it will be a matter of mere months to start the work up again in another building. If the U.S. was really serious about eliminating this alleged terrorist threat, it would have to go after the Sudanese government.

But that would be a very large undertaking, even against such a state as Sudan. It would have huge military costs, and cause enormous political difficulties for the United States with its allies, with its friends in Africa and the Middle East, and with the United Nations. Not everyone loves the Sudanese regime, but it makes people uneasy when the United States just invades countries that annoy it (Cambodia, Grenada, Panama, etc.).

The 'Qadhafi' option — trying to kill Hassan Al-Turabi, the man who really rules Sudan — is an obvious non-starter. Unlike Qadhafi, he doesn't sleep in isolated military camps. He lives and works in the middle of Khartoum, and even if you could find him, you'd have to bomb heavily built-up areas to have a chance of hitting him.

There is also the consideration that it would be a strategic error to remove a dreamy fantasist like Al-Turabi from power if the long-term U.S. aim is to destroy Sudan's Islamic regime. His government controls only half the country in the daylight hours, and a good deal less at night. In five more years there could be no more Sudan, just smaller successor states.

As for 'getting' Osama Ben Laden in Afghanistan, that would require sending in large military forces to overthrow the Taleban regime that protects him. As previous invaders of Afghanistan like the British and Russians would freely attest, that would be suicidally stupid. The Pentagon, which now exercises an effective veto over American military adventures abroad, would never countenance such an enterprise.

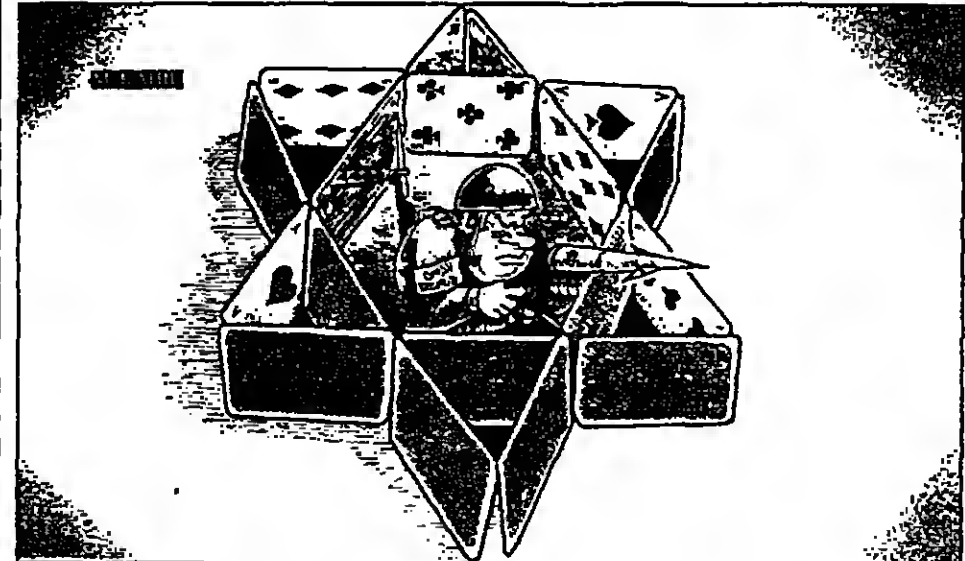
I'm not saying that these options for much bigger military operations were considered and reluctantly dismissed. I'm saying they were so ridiculous that they were never considered at all.

Well, surprise! Any junior staff officer (and any political scientist) will tell you that there are relatively few political problems that can be solved with air power, even when applied in massive quantities. There are practically none that can be resolved by a couple of dozen cruise missiles.

Now, the question is this. If Clinton's professional military advisers were telling him that using massive military force to deal with this particular aspect of international terrorism was impracticable, and minimal force was just plain useless — why did the man go ahead and order small symbolic strikes anyway?

Could it be, do you think, that he saw some political utility for them in a quite different context?

The writer is a London-based journalist and historian. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.



Letters

What about the less fortunate?

To the editor:

LUCKY PEOPLE of Sweifayah and Um Utheina (Jordan Times, Letters, Aug. 20) and probably other areas of Amman, who are apparently healthy enough to chase a water tanker in this heat, and when they manage to catch up with one, are also wealthy enough to be able to afford to pay for the water.

What about the people who are less fortunate and who, even if they are healthy enough to do the running, would never be able to afford to pay for the water? Assuming they live somewhere where a tanker could get close enough to their house to deliver their goods! I'm sure they would like to wash themselves, their children and their clothes on a regular basis too.

Let's worry about them instead and do something about what for them is not just a "water-crisis" but a fact of life they have to live with all the year round!

Liesbeth Tangelder
Amman

Press law nearing endorsement, starving Sudanese, Jordan's jobless draw comment

Reviewed by
Mohammad Ben Hussein

Local columnists last week discussed the draft press and publications law, the starvation of the Sudanese people, the Clinton-Lewinsky affair, unemployment and the water crisis.

Al Rai's Fahed Fanek said the draft press and publications law was a set back to democracy and public freedoms. He said after the draft law was slightly amended by the Lower House, no changes were introduced to it by the senate, and the law will automatically be endorsed by a Royal Decree. The writer criticised the Senators for not amending any article in the law. He said it is pointless to judge the law because it is an unavoidable evil and people have to live with it. Fanek, who expected the law to be endorsed by the beginning of the next month, said journalists will then be obliged to respect the legislation regardless of what it represents or what they think about it. The writer said enforcement of the law will be based on the strength and credibility of a journalist's institution. Therefore, Fanek said, the independence of the judiciary is the only glimpse of hope remaining in Jordan for the journalism profession.

Al Rai's Sultan Hattab discussed the plight of the Sudanese people caused by the deadly fighting between the government and the break-away south. He said people in the southern part of the country are living skeletons, flocking for a handful of wheat which might keep them alive for another day. The writer criticised the Arab countries for being reckless and ignorant about the whole issue. He lamented the rich Arab countries for not helping their brothers through their suffering while they are indulging in their own pleasures. He said the Arab World is calling for the unity of the Sudanese people from north to south; they would not allow the south to enter into any coalition with foreign countries, a step, said Hattab, which might threaten the unity of the country. The emaciated Sudanese will see the Americans, the French and the Israelis as their friends when they see them shipping tonnes of aid to their children. The writer said if the Arab countries sincerely want the unity of Sudan they better maintain a presence where they are needed by starving people who would welcome any kind of source of aid.

Al Rai's Youssef Mahmoud commented on the expected negative impact of the Clinton-Lewinsky affair on the Arab World specially Iraq and the Middle East peace process. Would the American president be able to play a critical role in these cases after he lost his credibility and his image was tarnished, asked Mahmoud. The writer expected Clinton would not be very patient with Iraq and would strike the Arab country as soon as he gets the chance. Clinton wants to satisfy Congress and most of the American people by launching an attack against Iraq, said Mahmoud. The writer expected Clinton would be reluctant to force the Israeli radical prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to implement the signed peace accords. He said Clinton wants to make any effort in the peace process because neither the American people nor Congress is keen on the future of the peace process. The writer said the Arabs will pay the price of Clinton's lust, and the Jewish lobby will benefit from it.

Al Dustour's Rakan Majali discussed the high unemployment of Jordan, and suggested methods to tackle the current problem. He criticised the Ministry of Administrative Development, and described the national unemployment conference for combating unemployment which will be held next month as the "joke of the season." Majali said the whole ministry should not exist because it is a form of bureaucracy. The writer charged that the ministry with its employees represent what he called disguised unemployment. He stressed the importance of the role of media in contributing to creating public awareness about the causes of unemployment, and encouraging people away from the "culture of shame." Majali praised some university graduates and retired people for working in fields unrelated to their qualifications such as gas stations or construction sites. The writer suggested a minimum wage set by the government, which will encourage Jordanians to accept any kind of a job and will organise the labour market.

Al Rai's Sultan Hattab commented on the government's measures to control the sale of water in Amman, by dispatching police and ministry employees to private run water wells, after the crisis erupted early last month. He said the government should float the prices of water as it does other goods. Hattab said the tankers are halted at police check points for several hours in order to send them to water distribution centres. The writer charged that government measures forced the distribution capacity of tankers to decrease. Tankers who used to sell 10 tanker-loads of water a day, now do not sell more than two, said Hattab. He said before the government became involved, water prices were much better and depended on supply and demand. The writer said people first suffered from murky, foul-smelling water, now they do not even have water. He said because of new government measures, some people have had to wait one week before quenching their thirst.

Week in print

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King's letter of designation to Tarawneh focuses on tackling poverty, unemployment, bureaucracy

AMMAN (Petra) — Following is the full text of His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation sent to Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh on Thursday entrusting him to form a new government:

I send you my love, appreciation and confidence.

In view of the resignation of the government of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali and our acceptance of this resignation, we can only express our appreciation of his long years of loyal and dedicated service to the nation.

We found that the time has come for a new team to pursue the Kingdom's march, and therefore we are entrusting you with the formation of a new government, and wish you success in your new mission.

The reason that we chose you is that you, my brother, have been a model for others in your loyalty and true commitment to the homeland and your allegiance to the Hashemite Throne and what the Throne represents in this dear homeland and what the Throne strives to achieve under all circumstances and conditions.

I have watched your work as a young man at the Royal Court following your graduation from the University of Jordan and later your achievements while pursuing your higher studies in economics. My soul has been filled with satisfaction about your work as attested to by the various prime ministers you have worked with concerning your diligence and your open mind and readiness to learn.

In all the positions you held, you have been a statesman in the full sense of the word, and when we chose you to serve as chief of the Royal Court several months ago, we found that we had chosen well because you rose to the occasion and shouldered your responsibilities.

You no doubt realise the present critical circumstances we are experiencing and the enduring experience of the past few weeks. We have realised that in this steadfast country there are people who are not subject to envy and not affected by events and developments.

I have opted for transparency and clarity and set the example for others by informing the public about the details of my illness. We want the government to be transparent before the people, who can tell the difference between truth and falsehood and can differentiate between what is good and bad, because these people are educated and have a sense of awareness and are able to shoulder responsibility no matter how great the challenges might be.

Telling the truth and acting with transparency in presenting the facts to the public are among the most important duties of the government. All Cabinet members should be committed to their oath and should shoulder their responsibilities with honesty and should follow this approach in order to strengthen civic society. We should be honest in our performance and we will find that the people will back our efforts and so the burden will ease.

Government decisions should be characterised by accuracy, integrity and objectivity and should be based on scientific facts, accurate statistical information and the law and founded on a solid ground of integrity and justice.

There should not be any discrimination between one citizen and another except in their worthy efforts and straightforwardness. Reassurance and security can only be attained through justice and through imposing the law on the powerful, should they go astray. Societies are subject to weakness and instability in an atmosphere where corruption, discrimination, favouritism and nepotism prevail.

When citizens feel that decisions are taken in accordance with solid principles and firm legislation they exert efforts to reap what is good for them instead of knocking on doors asking for (wasta) or favour. If these principles are applied to all, and if the decisions are presented to the public and if the door is opened for responsible, balanced and objective discussion, the people will be reassured and satisfied and will go about their business with a greater

measure of dedication and competence. Ensuring security for people in their homeland is imperative, although resources might sometimes fail to achieve everything all at once. Therefore the question of poverty should draw the concern of the government and should be given absolute attention. We are facing a challenge in the population growth rate, but we must not be resigned to the question of poverty and suffice ourselves by indirectly combating it. The government should instill reassurance in the minds of the poor and those with limited income and should mobilise all its forces to extend a helping hand to them. Officials should not close their eyes or go to bed satisfied with themselves while realising that in certain homes people have no food as their bread-winners could not provide for their children.

In the coming days we should be creative in introducing programmes to combat poverty; and the state, in its private and public sectors, should work hand-in-hand to find work for able bodied citizens, and we should ensure justice for all in accordance with well prepared plans and gradually seek to improve the quality of life of low income groups and people in underdeveloped regions living in the haddia, the camps, villages or cities. The government should work out accurate programmes to be reflected in our budget figures and our decisions so that the poor and the needy can feel that they are full members of society and so that they become an asset to society rather than a liability.

Priority in spending in the next fiscal budget should reflect the government's concern to tackle poverty and should include a strategy to deal with poverty from its roots.

In the short term, the government should support the National Aid Fund and the Employment and Development Fund and should encourage charitable organisations and cooperatives to work in unison in the fight against poverty by providing assistance through rehabilitation, through small size

family projects.

The government should search for the unknown soldiers who toil in the desert and rural areas and should extend a helping hand to them.

As much as the nation needs to honour and reward the distinguished people in recognition of their endeavours, it must equally strike on the negligent and the indifferent and those who do not give any regard to their duties. I have earlier brought to the attention of the Jordanian people examples of shortcomings and failures which could have caused major disasters.

Good employees should be rewarded, but those failing in their duties and neglecting responsibilities or the corrupt amongst them and those who betray the trust should be punished. Once the right steps are taken to determine the violation and the kind of punishment, the government should be just and fair in rendering punishment on the violators of laws and regulations.

The time has come for us to transform slogans into actions and to transform our words and aspirations into action for the people to feel and see that these actions positively affect their daily life. Such endeavours require programmes to fight unemployment — a disease that has been eating away at our Jordanian family and causing misery. The time has come to look into the basic asset of Jordanian men and women, employees, and workers, graduates or job seekers, to help them secure productive work not by merely creating vacancies for them to fill.

The Jordanian family which has been accustomed to converting savings into investment in education and training deserve to be rewarded for their effort and not to be punished by depriving their children of the right to enjoy opportunities or by humiliating them through unemployment.

My heart bleeds over women who had given birth to children and spared no effort in raising them, helping them through education at

school and university so that after graduation they can start off their voyage through life. Parents feel apprehensive about the future which does not hold much for their children.

We must not accept a situation which creates hundreds of thousands of jobs for non-Jordanians while Jordanian job seekers sit idle, falling victim to frustration and despair. The government should work hand-in-hand with the private sector and the various institutions towards encouraging investment and individual initiatives. I urge the government to draw up a programme that spreads awareness and educates the public on ridding itself of the culture of shame. We have inherited a religion that encourages us to work, not to sit idle and become unproductive.

Poverty and unemployment create a climate that breeds crime. There are groups outside our boundaries who are trading in drugs and who try to use our lands as a passageway for trafficking narcotics and they seek to tempt our young people into drug addiction. It has become imperative on us to protect our children from such temptation through initiating anti-crime and anti-narcotics programmes. Such endeavours call for supporting the work of the security services and promoting their efforts by raising the efficiency of their cadres and providing them with the modern facilities and equipment to put an end to crime.

By this, we do not only protect ourselves but we have a duty to protect our brothers. Our efforts should not stop at combatting crime but should rather go further towards respecting the dignity of prisoners and detainees by improving prison conditions and by providing prisoners with opportunities for rehabilitation and training so that they can return to normal life.

As we stand at the threshold of the 21st century we are required to improve our production so that we can enter world markets with high quality goods capable of competing with others. A large number of productive institutions in industry, agriculture and the services

sector have won international recognition which has entitled them to export to the world. We need to focus on quality rather than quantity, and we should choose and employ modern technology rather than satisfying ourselves by transferring it without learning it.

In order to reach these stages, we ought to train a generation of competent people, we should re-examine our methods of training and we should give due attention to the creative people among us because they are invaluable. We ought to overcome the shortcomings in certain developed services so that we may not be left lagging behind the world especially in informatics, telecommunications, and the media. I am confident that Jordanians can achieve successes in these fields as they have done in the fields of medicine and pharmacy when they were accorded support and encouragement.

Our openness to the world does not mean losing our Arab or Islamic identity. We should not advocate isolation from the world, we have inherited a faith that urges us to seek knowledge, even in China; a faith which encourages us to seek knowledge in all fields. Our unity serves as a basic asset which enables us to confront the challenges as we live through the eye of the storm.

We ought to exercise internal cohesion, protect our national unity and close our ranks in the face of enemies. Our internal security is linked to our external security, and we should not be lax in either case. A civic society that does not allow loopholes and gaps should act in an integral manner with the armed forces and the security services. We have worked hard over long years and we have succeeded in creating institutions that protect our borders and our internal front. Citizens can go to sleep reassured and content about their wellbeing.

Therefore the government should place our military and security requirements among the priorities for care and spending so that we can continue to upgrade their levels and increase their efficiency to serve as the homeland's shield and a strong fence for the nation and a real example of the Great Arab Revolt's army.

We have to build a civic democratic society, and the government should be open to all political parties and interact with them, exchanging consultation and advice about the nation's affairs.

We should not surprise the public with major decisions without ample preparation, and without studying their different aspects. We want to see constructive dialogue serving as our civilised approach in the various forms of the media and the press. The government should set the example in this, thwarting attempts on the part of those wishing to harm freedom and aborting attempts of those who try to cause damage to the nation's stability.

We take pride in Parliament and its achievements. The government is duty bound to maintain contact with parliamentary committees during the chambers' sessions as well as when they are in recess because this can help both sides reach conclusions while debating legislation or tackling public issues.

Our foreign policy is based on a clear and solid foundation. We are for peace in approach and strategy because it is the target of the nations that seek construction (not war). We support our brothers and we continue to help them protect their interests and protect their rights. The blood of our Palestinian brothers is our blood, whatever is good for them is good for us too and whatever harm they face is ours as well. We will work with their leadership until justice has been established and the Palestinians have regained their rights and aspirations to independence and the establishment of a state on their national soil. We oppose occupation of land by force and we believe in dialogue as the method for regaining Arab rights. This is the spirit of the Great Arab Revolt.

Our channels of communication with our brothers and friends will remain open so that our efforts can be integrated and based on mutual respect.

While awaiting a list of the names of the Cabinet members, I wish you success in serving the country, and the nation.

Tarawneh pledges to foster freedom, democracy, strengthen accountability, evaluation

AMMAN (Petra) — In his reply to His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation to form a new government, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh pledged to work with his team on interpreting the directives and guidelines contained in the letter of designation.

"I have the honour to accede to your Royal Decree, and to work as your prime minister. Your Majesty's letter of designation will be the guide directing my work," Tarawneh said.

"Your confidence in me is a medal of honour which I will always keep deep in my heart," he said.

"His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will remain the person, whom we will refer to, seeking his advice and guidance in order to ensure that our march proceeds in the right direction," Tarawneh pledged to translate the letter of designation into practical steps and actions without "hesitation or apprehension."

Pledging to keep the doors of dialogue open with supporters and opponents of the government, Tarawneh said: "With your directives as our guide, we will contact official and civil institutions, irrespective of whether they are supporters or opponents, keep channels of dialogue open, give and take, work, achieve, evaluate and correct until we realise the great dream of His Majesty King Hussein in turning Jordan, the country of Al Hussein, into a productive country and a beacon of light and achievement."

The prime minister said his government will build on the achievements of its predecessors and will strive to keep

the march of development alive and sustain it on firm foundations.

Tarawneh said the government will foster principles of freedom, democracy, justice and equality and will strengthen the systems of accountability and evaluation.

"God willing, we will be soldiers for justice, equality, responsible freedom, and the honest and objective word," he said.

The prime minister pledged continuous contact and interaction with Parliament, in order to ensure complementarity of roles of the three branches of government without overlapping of their respective roles.

"We will listen to their views and opinions and sense the needs and aspirations of people through their representatives in Parliament," said the prime minister.

Tarawneh said his government will build fruitful and proactive relations with all political parties without discrimination or favouritism.

"Our work is mainly based on agreement, consent and dialogue, rather than on confrontation and boycotts," he said, adding that the government and the civil institutions are all working towards the goal of building Jordan.

The prime minister pledged transparency, fairness and objectivity in government's decision-making. He said the government will "not make any room for any shortcomings, such as favouritism, and unjustifiable discrimination, which are set to distort the government's achievements."

He added that the government will

define its priorities in accordance with the letter of designation, noting that such priorities will be translated into clear and well-defined plans, which will be shared with democratic and civil institutions, as well as with citizens.

"Addressing problems of poverty and unemployment will be the major preoccupation of the government, so that we can revive hopes among the poor to live a decent life and to find jobs," Tarawneh said. He added that his government will support efforts and initiatives of the private sector and the non-governmental organisations, and will increase resources to social service projects in order to create income-generation projects for the needy.

He said the government will reward outstanding and dedicated civil servants and will help inefficient employees to perform as expected of them, and to discharge their duties efficiently.

"We will do our utmost to prepare Jordan to enter the 21st century and face up to its challenges," Tarawneh said.

Our guide to that will be Your Majesty's understanding of the meaning of science and technology, and dealing with the world without any prejudice to our culture and identity," Tarawneh said, adding that his government will be guided by Prince Hassan's vision and understanding of developments.

Stressing his government's support for the private sector, Tarawneh said: "We will make every possible effort

with the private sector to develop our production and services and enable them to compete in international markets, in terms of quality and price."

The government will also direct special attention to the communication and information sectors to ensure the highest degree of efficiency, Tarawneh said.

"Comprehensive security remains a major preoccupation for the government," Tarawneh said, adding that the government will provide every possible support to the Armed Forces and Public Security Department to ensure the highest levels of training and readiness to defend the country.

He also said the government will work towards combating crime, improving prisons and prison facilities and safeguarding the dignity and security of citizens at all times and in all circumstances.

On foreign policy, Tarawneh said the government will remain committed to supporting the efforts to establish a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, and to work closely with Arab countries at a time when great blocs and regions have become the tide of complementarity and facing challenges.

On the question of Palestine, Tarawneh said his government will remain a strong supporter of the Palestinians.

"We will work with our Palestinian brothers and support them until they achieve their legitimate aspiration of establishing their own independent state on their national soil."

The Saturday Crossword

FATHER'S DAY
By Edgar Fontaine, Dighton, Massachusetts

- ACROSS
- 1 Splitter group
- 5 Musical staff sign
- 10 Computations
- 15 Loser to the tortoise
- 19 Heart problem?
- 20 Playwright
- 21 Phrenology
- 22 Stability
- 23 Periods of time
- 24 Father Brown's creator
- 25 Father Christmas
- 27 Programs
- 28 Tended
- 30 Football miscue
- 31 Barely perceptible
- 32 Looks aghast
- 33 Gait
- 34 French Louisiana
- 37 People
- 38 Elastic
- 42 Unburned brick
- 43 Our Father
- 45 Tiler's tool
- 46 Strive an attitude
- 47 Flop
- 48 Assert positively
- 49 Klausen flow
- 50 Aloft
- 51 "The Father of Medicine"
- 55 Preceding symbol
- 56 Collapses
- 58 Irritated
- 59 Loss
- 60 Merchant's figures
- 61 One who gives his heart?
- 62 Writer...Boothe
- 63 Teaparty host
- 65 Tell me the explanation
- 66 Kidde spellers?
- 68 Indian nursemaids
- 70 "The Father of Radio"
- 72 Santa...winds
- 73 Disgusting
- 74 His counterpart
- 75 Parks oneself
- 76 on (inches)
- 77 Sailors' grp.
- 78 Father of Flavius
- 79 Julius Cripus
- 82 Tibia and femur
- 83 Honor recipient
- 85 Showed concern
- 86 Edible green stalk
- 87 Told a whopper
- 88 Gossip
- 89 Memento (reminder of mortality)
- 90 Dundee of boxing hawk
- 93 Broad-winged
- 94 Combustible
- 98 Father of science fiction
- 100 Deacon's tither
- 102 Entrance of a mine
- 103 WWW communications
- 104 Swiss mathematician
- 105 Signs, Hollywood-style
- 106 Confederate soldiers, casually
- 107 Inclined to flow
- 108 Fox and others
- 109 Amount paid
- DOWN
- 1 Pouchlike parts
- 2 Parrot
- 3 Child's profession
- 4 Laboratory vessel
- 5 Washes
- 6 Spicy sauce
- 7 Less caloric
- 8 Hot dog's problem
- 9 Helsinki's country
- 10 Off-the-neck
- 11 Chestnut-and-white horses
- 12 Condon separations
- 13 Approx.
- 14 Sailor
- 15 Motorcycle's protection
- 16 Part of U.A.E.
- 17 Actor Julia
- 18 In... (edifying)
- 24 Coll about
- 26 More adorable
- 28 "Planet of the..."
- 29 "Canille" star
- 30 Evident maladies
- 34 Like Betman and Robin
- 35 Reverse
- 36 Swiftness
- 37 Proliferate
- 38 Squinted away
- 39 Louis 16 father
- 40 Rundown dwelling
- 41 Abbey Theatre founder
- 43 Runs at a steady
- 44 Movie evaluator
- 47 Mosquito or flea
- 49 Nixon's Secretary of Defense
- 51 Alan and Nathan
- 52 Audience
- 53 Washer cycle
- 54 High and mighty
- 55 Sing-song mode of speaking
- 57 Machine-shop
- 58 Social stratum
- 61 "When thou thinkest"
- 62 Greek island
- 63 Wholespread confusion
- 64 acids
- 65 "Sichcrath" author
- 66 to a halt
- 67 Ire
- 68 Jaunty
- 70 Tablet choice
- 71 Beakless wren
- 74 Beside
- 78 Earliest period of human culture
- 79 Covers a room
- 80 Sharply
- 81 Monkfish
- 82 State police officer
- 83 Tours toppler
- 84 Armadas
- 86 Kitchen tools
- 88 Altercation
- 89 Played charades
- 90 Open slightly
- 91 Unclouded
- 92 Silver-tongued
- 93 Cereal choice
- 94 Flock of sheep
- 95 Gambling mecca
- 96 Diving sea birds
- 97 Attention-getting sound
- 99 Ostrich kin
- 101 Have negroes

Last Sunday's Crossword Solved

ACROSS: 1. SPLITTER, 5. MUSICAL, 10. COMPUTATIONS, 15. LOSER, 19. HEART, 20. PLAYWRIGHT, 21. PHRENOLOGY, 22. STABILITY, 23. PERIODS, 24. FATHER BROWN, 25. FATHER CHRISTMAS, 27. PROGRAMS, 28. TENDED, 30. FOOTBALL, 31. BARELY, 32. LOOKS, 33. GAIT, 34. FRENCH, 37. PEOPLE, 38. ELASTIC, 42. UNBURNED, 43. OUR, 45. TILER, 46. STRIVE, 47. FLOP, 48. ASSERT, 49. KLAUSEN, 50. ALOFT, 51. THE, 55. PRECEDING, 56. COLLAPSES, 58. IRRITATED, 59. LOSS, 60. MERCHANT, 61. ONE, 62. WRITER, 63. TEAPARTY, 65. TELL, 66. KIDDE, 68. INDIAN, 70. THE, 72. SANTA, 73. DISGUSTING, 74. HIS, 75. PARKS, 76. ON, 77. SAILORS, 78. FATHER, 79. JULIUS, 82. TIBIA, 83. HONOR, 85. SHOWED, 86. EDIBLE, 87. TOLD, 88. GOSSIP, 89. MEMENTO, 90. DUNDIE, 93. BROAD, 94. COMBUSTIBLE, 98. FATHER, 100. DEACON, 102. ENTRANCE, 103. WWW, 104. SWISS, 105. SIGNS, 106. CONFEDERATE, 107. INCLINED, 108. FOX, 109. AMOUNT, DOWN: 1. POUCH, 2. PARROT, 3. CHILD, 4. LABORATORY, 5. WASHES, 6. SPICY, 7. LESS, 8. HOT, 9. HELSINKI, 10. OFF, 11. CHESTNUT, 12. CONDON, 13. APPROX, 14. SAILOR, 15. MOTORCYCLE, 16. PART, 17. ACTOR, 18. IN, 24. COLL, 26. MORE, 28. PLANET, 29. CANILLE, 30. EVIDENT, 34. LIKE, 35. REVERSE, 36. SWIFTNES, 37. PROLIFERATE, 38. SQUINTED, 39. LOUIS, 40. RUNDOWN, 41. ABBEY, 43. RUNS, 44. MOVIE, 47. MOSQUITO, 49. NIXON, 51. ALAN, 52. AUDIENCE, 53. WASHER, 54. HIGH, 55. SINGSONG, 57. MACHINE, 58. SOCIAL, 61. WHEN, 62. GREEK, 63. WHOLES, 64. ACIDS, 65. SICHC, 66. TO, 67. IRE, 68. JAUNTY, 70. TABLET, 71. BEAKLESS, 74. BESIDE, 78. EARLIEST, 79. COVERS, 80. SHARPLY, 81. MONKFISH, 82. STATE, 83. TOURS, 84. ARMADAS, 86. KITCHEN, 88. ALTERCATION, 89. PLAYED, 90. OPEN, 91. UNCLOUDED, 92. SILVER, 93. CEREAL, 94. FLOCK, 95. GAMBLING, 96. DIVING, 97. ATTENTION, 99. OSTRICH, 101. HAVE

Government faces tough economic agenda

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan's new government faces the daunting task of getting the country out of an economic mess which threatens its long-term growth prospects, analysts and business leaders said Friday.

They said major challenges face Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh's team of technocrats, as the Kingdom's social and economic woes were deepened by a failure to control state spending by worsening administration and official incompetence.

Tarawneh, who took over from outgoing prime minister Abdul Salam Majali, has with him a team of veteran ministers headed by prominent economist Taher Kanaan, expected to maintain IMF-directed free market liberalisation.

But their task will be more pressing than any of their predecessors' to quicken snail-paced reforms aimed at easing growing poverty, unemployment and restoring

flagging business confidence in government.

"The economic issue has the priority and within the economic issues, poverty and unemployment," Tarawneh told Reuters.

While Jordan's economy has been held hostage to an unfavourable external environment, including a faltering Middle East peace process and turmoil in neighbouring Iraq, many experts say the country's plight has been worsened by mediocre administration.

"Delay in implementing economic legislation has led to a slowdown in growth and lost us investment opportunities," said Hamdi Tabaa, head of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association.

Prime Minister Tarawneh will have to address this legacy of government inertia amid growing nepotism and graft among state employees, who have seen their living standards plummet.

"Societies (are) weakened and shaken under the banner of patronage and

favouritism of relatives or beneficiaries," King Hussein said in his letter of appointment to Tarawneh.

Jordan's less than bright economic picture was exposed this summer after planning officials radically revised down their rosy GDP (gross domestic product) growth figures, previously estimated at over five per cent in 1996 and 1997.

Officials admitted growth this year could be a modest two per cent, falling far short of an earlier estimate of around six per cent.

With an eye on former prime minister Abdul Karim Kabariti's ill-fated move in 1996 to raise bread prices, which provoked civil unrest, most governments have held back from unpopular measures for fear of a social backlash.

But reflecting growing concerns about the state finances, Crown Prince Hassan hinted this week at the need to cut state expenditure.

The toughest task will be bringing fiscal discipline to reduce the budget deficit, expected at around six per cent of GDP from an original 3.2 per cent estimate for

reforms, mired by lack of will for real change which carries a heavy political price.

The government's challenge is to meet growth targets of over six per cent by the year 2000 from a modest 2.2 per cent last year if it is to avert rising unemployment and ease poverty.

Jordan is burdened with a population growth of about 3.5 per cent per year, and the young make up the majority of its 4.6 million.

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this year.

But economists question whether the government can handle the politically explosive issue of downsizing a bloated public sector which comprises nearly 20 per cent of the country's \$5 billion GDP, one of the highest ratios in the world.

About half the million-strong workforce is employed by the state and one challenge will be attracting more foreign investment, currently minimal, to create around 80,000 new jobs each year.

Critics blame powerful business and political lobbies competing for major deals for obstructing the government's efforts at deeper IMF-directed reforms.

Business leaders also await Tarawneh's moves on privatisation, so far paralysed by competing lobbies but still a major test of Jordan's credibility with foreign investors.

That debate had sparked fears of a backlash against foreign investment, casting doubt on Jordan's reform programme.

NEWS ANALYSIS

This outlook is expected to have a sobering effect on the new economic team as it tackles the problems now that Jordan's "success story," previously applauded by economic ministers, appears to have been a complacent illusion.

Critics say Jordan's success in macro-economic stabilisation since a severe 1989 crisis, has not been matched by any substantial progress in structural

Sweifiyeh shopping festival killed by disagreements

By Suha Ma'ayeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amman's first-ever shopping festival which was scheduled to have taken place in the sprawling area of Sweifiyeh eleven days ago was postponed indefinitely because the festival's organising committee was faced with difficulties in preparing for such an event.

The commercial area of Sweifiyeh, which includes nearly 1,200 companies and organisations, commercial shops and tourist facilities, was chosen due to its convenience for pedestrians, its

high shopping concentration and variety of shops and restaurants, according to the organisers.

As the volume of retail business across the Kingdom has declined over the past few years, the event was aimed at reviving the recession-hit economy and at luring tourists and expatriates, mainly the Arab Gulf nationals who escape soaring summer temperatures in their countries, said Mohammad Qudah, the executive director of the committee.

Qudah added that the one-week festival was supposed to have been held on the

eleventh of August, on the occasion of the King's accession to the Throne.

"We wanted the event as an attraction and investment and not only as a passage for travellers from nearby countries," he told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Qudah stressed that this festival was wrongly seen by some merchants as an end-of-season sales period. "Roads would not have been closed off to vehicles as the festival was not a carnival," he explained.

But, Qudah continued, the unenthusiastic merchants who did not fully understand the objectives of the

festival, feared that the event would be similar to those held frequently by the Municipality of Greater Amman in the area of Shmeisani where streets were closed off to vehicles during the weekends to revive artistic shows.

"Some even saw the affluent area of Sweifiyeh becoming less classy," he said.

"Such a situation will affect the key money for the stores and will consequently cause a dramatic decline in prices," said an owner of one of the 560 shops that was expected to take place in this event.

Even though merchants were exempt from the JD250 registration fee, "some merchants could not agree on the amount of discounts and others were dubious about the reductions they were going to offer to customers."

There was a disorganised publicity campaign for the event and, accordingly, the public was not fully aware of the concept of the festival.

Qudah concluded that the Chamber of Commerce decided not to sponsor the event until all the concerned parties reach an agreement.

Heavy trading seen continuing on banking, pharmaceutical shares

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Trading in banking and pharmaceutical shares at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) was a key factor in increasing the stock market's turnover last week compared to the previous week's figures, a broker said Friday.

The weekly bulletin showed that the turnover recorded in the past week

amounted to JD7.6 million, up from JD4.5 million, a 65.8 per cent increase.

The number of shares traded was 3.97 million. The average daily turnover amounted to JD1.5 million compared to JD1.1 million a week ago, the bulletin indicated.

Naim Nageeb, a broker at the stock market, said trading focused on the shares of the Arab Bank, Housing Bank, Arab Pharmaceutical

Manufacturing Company and Dar Al Dawa.

"Foreign investors sold some of their Arab and Housing Bank shares which were bought by local investors," Nageeb told the Jordan Times.

The general price index, based on the shares of 60 major firms, slipped by 1.17 points, down to 182.4 points in the past week from 183.5 points a week ago, a 0.64 decrease.

Nageeb explained that the drop was due to the decline in the price of Arab Bank shares, which opened at JD226.5 and closed at JD226, a 500 fils decrease.

The broker expected that trading will remain high on the shares of four companies in the coming week.

(Continued on page 9)

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REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates										
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF	Prices as at 21/08/98 17:38
US Dollar	1.0000	1.8010	0.6129	1.6054	145.13	1.5363	1776.20	2.0311	6.5378	
OE Mark	0.5552	-	0.3400	0.8355	80.61	0.8527	955.79	1.1276	3.3618	
GB Sterling	1.6318	2.9396	-	2.4558	236.91	2.8066	2898.05	3.3138	8.8613	
CH Franc	0.6643	1.1851	0.4058	-	96.42	1.0197	1179.42	134.87	4.0082	
JP Yen	0.0069	1.2404	0.4219	1.0369	-	1.0581	12.23	139.91	4.1590	
CA Dollar	0.6509	1.1749	0.4022	0.9859	1.06	-	1159.20	1.3247	3.8374	
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0137	0.3448	0.8847	1225.19	0.8647	-	11.43	3.3987	
NL Guilder	0.4923	88.68	0.3014	74.11	71.38	0.7581	873.99	-	2.8713	
FR Franc	0.1656	0.2982	0.1014	24.9292	24.01	0.2546	33.84	33.8400	-	

Middle Eastern Currencies										
Currency	USD	JDD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP	
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7090	3.7506	0.3770	3.6400	0.3073	3.6728	1519.00	3.4220	
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2900	0.5317	5.1340	0.4334	5.1803	2142.45	4.8265	
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0819	0.98	405.00	0.9124	
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8807	9.9488	-	9.66	0.8160	9.74	4029.28	9.0772	
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0844	1.01	417.31	0.9401	
Kuwait Dinar	3.2547	2.3076	12.2070	1.2270	11.85	-	11.85	4943.86	0.9401	
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0206	0.9911	0.9537	-	413.58	0.9317	
Lebanese 1000	0.68	0.4668	2.4691	0.2482	2.3963	0.2023	2.4179	-	2.2582	
Egyptian	0.2922	0.2072	1.0960	0.1102	1.0537	0.0988	1.0733	443.89	-	

Energy										
Oils	Last	Previous								
Brent	0.00	0.00								
W. Texas	13.82	13.58								
Bonny	0.00	0.00								
Dubai	12.33	12.02								
UL Gas	138.00	136.00								

Mid-East Currencies										
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY					
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4904	0.16341	0.4017	38.7177					
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.49066	0.16688	0.41021	38.5304					
KW Dinar	3.2547	5.8551	1.99481	4.90435	472.89					
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.78011	1.62575	3.9968	385.06					
CY Pound	1.8856	3.3971	1.1552	2.8396	273.734					

Metal Prices										
Metal	Bid	Offer								
Gold (oz's)	283.6	284								
Silver (oz's)	5.14	5.17								
Platinum (oz's)	368	370								
AL (3 Months)	1341	1344								
CU (3 Months)	1645	1650								
Zinc (3 Months)	1042	1046								
Lead (3 Months)	532	535								
Ni (3 Months)	4150	4170								

Libor Fixing										
Period	-1	-3	-6	-12						
C'nry	Month	Months	Months	Year						
USD	5.6484	5.6875	5.7188	5.7188						
GBP	7.7227	7.7500	7.7500	7.8332						
JPY	0.5781	0.6445	0.6522	0.6522						
DEM	3.4688	3.5000	3.5055	3.7188						
FRF	3.8000	1.7813	1.9102	2.0234						
CHF	1.7188	3.5469	3.5250	3.7688						
ITL	6.0400	4.8970	4.9930	-						

VACANCIES

A LEADING PRIVATE SCHOOL IN AMMAN IS SEEKING TEACHERS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- KG English teacher
- Grade 3 Class teacher
- Singing and Music teacher / Primary School
- IG and Advanced Level Economics teacher

Applicants should be holders for a BA (BSc.) degree or higher and should be experienced in their fields. Applications should be submitted to the School's Administrative Office during School's hours (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. daily except Fridays and Sundays).

For further information please call 462 1872

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Mardi
- Tangled masses
- Profoundly disturbing
- Copter starter?
- Shelter a fugitive, e.g.
- Configuration
- Added years
- Nevada city
- Embroidered loop
- Well-executed
- Sawbucks
- Beset
- 'Harlem Nights' co-star
- Art-travel watchdog grp.
- Drank noisily
- Has difference of opinion
- Word with club or goal
- Region
- Believer in God
- Patient to a doctor
- Soak hop
- Became more intense
- Automaton
- Hebrew judge
- Machu Picchu builders
- Slurs over
- Sleef of tennis
- Lure
- Eagle's abode
- Festive occasion
- 'MA'SH' star
- Late-night brie
- Night before
- Will of 'The Waltons'
- Martini-like volcano
- Remainder
- Byrnes and Hall

DOWN

- Neighbor of Togo
- Philbin of TV
- Baldwin and Guinness
- Part one of a tape
- Neighbor of D.C.
- Sleeping voice
- Pavarotti's
- Rockers
- Small snake
- Wedding loss
- Confront
- Resting atop
- Glives permission
- Existence
- May
- Hoagie
- Supped
- Outline
- Ultimatum word
- Soaked in anil
- Avant-garde art movement
- Dispatch
- Give away at a loss
- Silly Caesar
- Get the picture
- 42 Air
- Unaccountable years
- Cool down
- Jeopardy
- Barrel slet
- Reflection
- Removed from text
- Concluded
- Headliners
- Fight to breathe
- Mathematician
- Descartes
- Inland sea of Asia
- French islands
- Barely manage

Peanuts

I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT SOMEONE IN ANOTHER OUTFIT HAS WRITTEN A POEM SOMETHING LIKE YOURS...

"IN FLOWERS FIELDS THE POPPIES BLOW."

I'LL CHANGE MINE TO SUNFLOWERS...

Andy Capp

HOW'S MY DRUNKEN-THREAT?

I'M HAVING TROUBLE GETTING TO SLEEP BECAUSE ANDY CAPPO UP AND LEFT

LOOK THAT NEVER MIND THE SHEEP—SHEEP COUNTING YOUR LUCKY STARS?

IF SHE WASN'T MY MOTHER...

Mutt'n'Jeff

FIRE!

WHY ARE YOU HOLLERING FIRE?

WHO'D BOTHER TO SAVE ME IF I HOLLERED CHOCOLATE?

GLASBERGEN

"My boss asked me if I mind working on weekends. What's a weekend?"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOYOL

CEENI

BALMOG

CLAIFE

Answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: TWINE MOLDY (Answers: TWINE MOLDY)

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Private sector leaders express ideas, views for easing Kingdom's unemployment problem

***PARTICIPATING IN a discussion about the role of the private sector in easing the Kingdom's unemployment problem, Arah Potash Company General Manager Nasser Al Saadoun called for giving small and medium-size industries special attention and stressed that they should be the focus for absorbing the (idle) manpower.

Mazen Maaytah, president of the Federation of Workers' Associations, spoke about the importance of controlling and reorganising the non-Jordanian labour "which has become a real danger and is contributing to a higher rate of local joblessness." He also emphasised the need to reconsider the moves of mass or group layoffs that have taken place at some institutions and factories.

Michel Nazzari, president of the Hotels Society highlighted the importance of the tourism sector in absorbing manpower and easing unemployment. He called for activating tourism through international promotion campaigns of Jordan's touristic sites noting that the number of hotel rooms will reach about 6,300 rooms in the year 2000. "This will contribute to provide more than 38,000 job opportunities during two and half years either directly in the tourism sector or indirectly in other related sectors," Nazzari indicated.

Raouf Abu Jaber, president of the Federation of Jordanian Insurance Companies, stressed the importance of having several training venues and a strict policy to govern this approach. He also called for moving as far as

possible from bureaucratic procedures in order to encourage various investments.

Mohammad Al Tal, president of the Zarqa Chamber of Industry, emphasised the importance of developing, modernising and upgrading the centres, means and methods of training to create a "generation of craftsmen" who capably work on various industrial production lines. "If they are well-trained they can be precious national exports to substitute thousands of workers on production lines in Arab countries, especially the ones in the Gulf region," Tal said.

Khalid Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, saw a need to reconsider the training and educational programmes to correspond to the community requirements. He stressed the training and rehabilitation cooperation between the private sector and the military institutions which are distinguished with wide experience in many fields from which the private sector can benefit. Abu Hassan urged that every industrial or economic sector lay down its own training programmes.

Hani Mulki, minister of water and irrigation who held the industry and trade portfolio in the previous government, underlined the importance of the local tourism sector for its great potential to absorb large numbers of workers and stimulate economic activity. He also underlined the importance of training and rehabilitation to upgrade the capabilities of Jordanian manpower and boost its capacity and productivity (Al Ra'i + Al Dustour).

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your dreams and fantasies centre on your career and how you can make it on your own. You've been working on a team effort, but you'll have to be more independent again for a while. That's okay. What you learned from friends will help you achieve this new success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) The moon is in Virgo and the sun is about to go there too. That will help you considerably. You've had a lot of stresses the last 30 days, but you've probably achieved some security. That's important to you, so congratulate yourself. Tonight, do something you've always dreamed about.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You're entering a new phase, as you do every few weeks. Your attention for the next 30 days or so will be focused increasingly on fixing up your home and tidying relationships. If there are any problems in these areas, they're bound to surface. That's okay. They're doing that because this is the perfect time for them to be resolved.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) A partnership would be a good idea for you now and you might find the perfect partner. It's almost like you're rediscovering a partnership that was already there. Neptune is going into Capricorn retrograde, meaning you'll return to something that worked before. Keep that in mind.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You're in the spotlight again, but don't let it go to your head. You need to be practical. It's important to keep track of your money. Don't spend too much, even if you have a lot. This is an excellent day to count it — not only what you have, but what you expect to have.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You're starting to come into your own. All the trials and tribulations of the last few weeks will be forgotten as you take your rightful seat on the throne. It's a temporary condition, but for the coming month you'll have more opportunities than usual. Prepare yourself today by checking more things off old lists.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You're being increasingly pressured to take care of business. Details loom more and more important in your life. It's important to get organised and learn how to set priorities. These are all things you've been meaning to do, once the time was right. Well, guess what? Now is the day to get started.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a great day for a party and you definitely have something to celebrate. For the last month, you've been working to achieve a personal goal. Now that it's been accomplished, you can proceed to set group objectives. With you as a player, anything is possible.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) After the sun goes into Virgo late-tonight or early tomorrow, you'll have more opportunities to advance in your career for the next several weeks. It's less fun than the last phase, but it could be more lucrative. Prepare by resting up this weekend.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There will be massive changes in your favour. You're well able to travel and relax for a change. You've been under quite a bit of stress lately, so make plans to do something enjoyable with friends this weekend. Get as far away as possible from your routine.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Finances are a major issue again today. You need to get them in order. Figure out how much you need and where you're going to get it. You don't have to do it by yourself, that's obvious. If you make the deal sweet enough, another person is willing to help. Do that.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The moon is in Virgo and the sun's going over tomorrow. That means help is on the way. A person who'd like to be your partner is offering to assist. You had to do part of this job alone. Now you're getting into the parts you can share. By all means, do that.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Share trading at AFM rises by 65 per cent last week

(Continued from page 8)

The banking sector's share of the turnover amounted to 47 per cent of the total turnover, or JD3.5 million, followed by the industrial sector which received JD2.9 million or 39 per cent. The services sector accounted for JD640,000 and finally

insurance sector for 410,000 or 5.4 per cent.

The Kingdom's largest financial institution, Arab Bank, won JD2.1 million of the stock market's total turnover.

The Housing Bank ranked second among the banks that attracted investors with a turnover amounting to JD889,474.


Trading in the industrial sector focused on the Jordan Cement Factory, which won JD728,874 of the stock market's turnover. Pharmaceutical firms which recorded good results in their half year results drew the attention of investors with the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company winning

JD608,933 of the turnover. Turnover in the organised market amounted to JD7 million compared to JD550,094 in the parallel market.

Trading in the parallel market focused on the Union Tobacco Company which won JD152,668 of the trading followed by the Arab Financing Investment

Company with a turnover amounting to JD63,018.

Out of the 101 firms which changed hands at the stock market, 24 firms recorded higher prices, 56 firms registered lower prices while 21 companies witnessed no change in their prices.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET															
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - AMMAN															
TELEPHONE: 907171 / 607179															
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (15/08/1998 - 19/08/1998)															
WEEKLY REPORT															
															
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS		COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	MARKET SHARE	NO. OF TRADING DAYS	
HIGH	LOW				CONTRACTS	SHARES	JD						PRICE		
227.000	217.000	ARAB BANK	18.8	0.88	306	9580	2197430	224.50	237.00	225.00	229.00	-.50	228.377	1.09	5
1.660	1.640	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.8	9.22	39	37181	61350	1.65	1.66	1.65	1.66	+.01	1.650	.089	5
1.130	1.130	BANK OF JORDAN	-	0.00	7	9600	11041	1.14	1.19	1.14	1.14	-	1.150	.044	3
1.120	.930	MID-EAST INV. BK.	66.3	0.00	14	22950	22802	.39	1.02	1.00	1.01	+.05	1.021	.337	4
1.570	1.550	JHOSHEVA DEV. BK.	11.1	6.59	21	22763	35570	1.56	1.59	1.58	1.58	-.02	1.564	.095	5
3.240	3.040	JOR. HOUSING BK.	19.6	1.32	136	38939	889474	3.15	3.17	3.05	3.10	-.05	3.090	.290	5
1.860	1.830	JOR. JUMALY BANK	-	0.00	14	1348	2479	1.83	1.85	1.83	1.85	+.02	1.827	.009	4
.630	.580	JOR. GULF BANK	-	0.00	12	79800	47880	.62	.60	.60	.60	-.02	.600	.299	2
1.750	1.700	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	18.2	0.00	93	41291	73026	1.74	1.70	1.72	1.78	+.04	1.768	.187	5
1.870	1.500	JOR. INV. FTM. BANK	33.7	2.35	15	32925	50142	1.51	1.58	1.53	1.59	+.01	1.535	.162	5
.930	.900	BETH AL-HAL (BETHA)	3.9	0.00	1	900	477	.82	.81	.79	.79	-.02	.795	.030	2
.930	.930	PETROLIA. INV. BK.	1193.3	0.00	2	227500	152015	.82	.85	.77	.77	-.15	.844	2.275	2
BANKS SECTOR 659 779762 3582503 INDEX NUMBER : 297.79 CHANGE : - 0.272															
3.100	3.100	JORDAN INSURANCE	12.7	5.08	1	350	738	3.10	2.95	3.95	2.95	-.15	2.952	.005	1
1.480	1.480	JOR. ELECTRICITY	9.8	0.52	9	42953	93047	1.40	1.45	1.40	1.45	+.05	1.444	1.624	2
2.850	2.660	JOR. FIDELITY INSUR.	7.8	9.99	32	12474	90141	2.73	2.02	2.68	2.78	+.05	2.776	1.476	5
1.160	1.100	ROYAL LAND INSR.	8.3	0.00	7	94312	70743	1.10	1.11	1.10	1.11	+.01	1.100	3.349	3
2.150	3.150	PETROLIA. INV. BK.	17.3	0.00	1	500	1075	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15	-	2.150	.025	1
1.930	1.920	ARAB LIFE INSR.	9.1	0.00	4	1122	2330	1.93	1.90	1.90	1.90	-.03	1.890	.043	3
1.540	1.990	JORDAN GULF INSR.	0.00	0.00	14	100708	150575	1.49	1.50	1.49	1.50	+.01	1.495	4.478	1
1.700	1.700	ROYAL LAND INSR.	25.4	0.00	1	400	660	1.70	1.95	1.95	1.95	+.05	1.650	.020	1
1.280	1.350	DETA INSURANCE	18.5	0.00	1	7000	4460	1.20	1.28	1.28	1.28	-	1.280	.350	1
INDEX SECTOR 75 750412 288064 INDEX NUMBER : 127.70 CHANGE : - 1.102															
1.600	1.820	JOR. ELECTRIC. PWR.	9.9	5.39	75	71308	189811	1.55	1.55	1.52	1.53	-.02	1.538	.257	5
3.700	3.390	GRAND ELECTRICITY	15.8	3.91	15	1987	2711	2.39	2.57	2.41	2.56	+.20	2.496	.050	3
2.370	2.350	WCLC. OWNERS PWR.	8.0	9.15	5	1830	2724	2.15	2.07	1.95	1.95	-.20	2.025	.153	3
.960	.900	WCLC. OWNERS PWR.	35.1	0.00	23	89176	60830	.90	.92	.88	.88	-.02	.896	1.784	4
.810	.700	REAL ESTATE INV.	14.9	0.00	9	4450	2375	.79	.77	.74	.76	+.01	.758	.094	3
.340	.320	JORDAN TEL. TRAD.	-	0.00	1	1000	330	.33	.33	.33	.33	-	.330	.028	1
5.000	5.700	ARAB TEL. TRAD.	8.7	7.02	2	350	1895	5.75	5.70	5.70	5.70	-.05	5.700	.032	1
1.100	1.100	JOR. TEL. TRAD.	210.9	0.00	4	12500	13750	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	-	1.100	.227	3
2.020	1.850	ARAB TEL. TRAD.	9.9	3.00	43	119074	238239	1.98	3.02	2.00	2.00	+.02	2.001	.508	5
.960	.900	ARAB EDUCATION	20.0	0.00	10	4000	2690	.90	.90	.90	.90	-.01	.923	.060	5
1.280	1.200	UNIFIED CO.	5.3	9.24	21	11062	19388	1.20	1.23	1.19	1.19	-.01	1.212	.377	4
1.080	1.080	UNIFIED FOR FINAN. INV.	1.5	5.49	20	17700	20499	1.08	1.17	1.13	1.17	+.09	1.158	.895	2
SERVICES SECTOR 225 348017 494243 INDEX NUMBER : 110.81 CHANGE : - 0.332															
2.030	1.840	JOR. CHEMIST FACT.	11.9	5.47	99	364335	728874	2.01	2.01	1.97	2.01	-	2.001	.601	5
1.990	1.690	JOR. PROSPERITY PWR.	17.5	0.00	12	14337	14337	1.70	1.70	1.65	1.65	-.05	1.973	.019	4
4.930	4.750	ARAB POTASH CO.	22.6	4.17	11	28950	142978	4.95	4.95	4.75	4.80	-.15	4.900	.035	4
10.800	10.800	JOR. FIDELITY INSR.	10.4	0.31	57	9733	103410	10.73	10.75	10.90	10.70	-.03	10.638	.252	5
4.760	4.530	JORDAN TRADING	8.0	0.00	5	776	2823	4.70	5.00	5.00	5.00	+.20	4.927	.078	3
1.180	1.060	INDUSTRIAL COMM. PWR.	60.5	0.00	19	12499	13914	1.07	1.19	1.07	1.16	+.09	1.119	.249	5
2.760	2.530	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	7.7	2.70	42	218042	608933	3.70	2.88	2.63	2.78	+.09	2.818	1.200	5
1.550	1.210	JOR. CHEMIST INDR.	6.9	8.93	18	28100	32020	1.25	1.24	1.12	1.12	-.13	1.140	.562	5
3.760	2.750	JORDAN BANK	6.1	10.10	2	114	314	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	-	2.754	.007	1
1.120	1.100	JOR. PAPER CO.	9.2	9.01	11	14900	16529	1.10	1.11	1.11	1.11	+.01	1.110	.450	2
7.150	7.000	ARAB CHEM. INDR.	7.8	7.14	3	300	1405	7.10	7.10	7.00	7.00	-.10	7.025	.030	1
.430	.610	RAPIA INDUSTRIES	-	0.00	1	100	60	.63	.60	.60	.60	-.03	.600	.006	1
5.710	5.200	DAR ALDIAH INV. DIV.	7.0	5.98	96	56568	328356	5.65	5.88	5.69	5.85	+.20	5.805	.943	5
1.460	1.710	ARAB ALUM. IND.	23.3	13.89	9	5900	10684	1.85	1.85	1.80	1.80	-.05	1.811	.098	4
.430	.430	TYROCKE & WOLLEN	13.9	0.00	55	81000	23562	1.42	1.42	1.41	1.41	-.01	1.410	.249	5
3.720	3.610	ROYAL CHEM. INDR.	16.7	2.72	1279	5061	372	3.67	3.67	3.67	3.67	-.05	2.970	.020	1
.810	.810	ARAB PAPER CO. INDR.	23.5	0.00	4	1350	977	.81	.80	.77	.77	-.04	.782	.026	3
.420	.420	NATIONAL STEEL INDR.	-	0.00	1	50	20	.42	.40	.40	.40	-.02	.400	.001	1
.430	.410	NATIONAL INDR.	-	0.00	3	850	369	.41	.41	.41	.41	-	.411	.034	2
.410	.100	UNIFIED. PWR. COMM.	-	0.00	17	11700	4267	.40	.38	.34	.34	-.06	.355	.233	5
.470	.420	JOR. ROCCO WOLLEN	-	0.00	2	350	200	.42	.40	.40	.40	-.02	.400	.008	1
.920	.810	UNIV. CHEM. INDR.	8.2	10.13	15	3500	200	.82	.80	.76	.76	-.04	.764	.167	4
.780	.780	ROYAL CHEM. INDR.	35.2	0.00	32	26225	20291	.79	.80	.75	.75	-.04	.774	.150	5
.530	.480	JOR. SUIFO-CHEM	7.6	0.00	90	84900	26472	.48	.47	.49	.48	+.0	.480	.189	5
1.310	1.240	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	14.3	4.62	30	16750	21671	1.29	1.30	1.28	1.30	+.01	1.294	.335	5
.530	.390	TANDEM INVEST.	-	0.00	92	66400	32009	.51	.56	.47	.53	-	.539	.220	5
.780	.690	UNIV. INDR. INDR.	10.2	9.10	25	12010	7778	.69	.68	.64	.64	-.05	.640	.200	3
.550	.520	JOR. INDR. RESOURCES	-	0.00	45	7900	2472	.52	.52	.52	.52	-	.524	.588	5
1.750	2.210	ROYAL CHEMIST	8.7	0.06	8	8250	1989	2.21	2.25	2.22	2.24	+.01	2.229	.071	4
.760	.700	JOR. NEW CANAL CO.	9.2	15.38	65	26600	17764	.70	.99	.65	.65	-.05	.660	.333	5
1.250	1.150	EL-FAY BRYAT PWR.	40.8	0.00	21	37600	44005	1.15	1.16	1.15	1.16	+.01	1.159	.509	4
1.000	.970	INTEL. TORACCO	6.7	0.00	14	3650	3585	.97	.99	.96	.99	+.01	.977	.030	5
.880	.860	UNION CH. & PWR.	6.7	0.00	8	3050	.9378	.86	.86	.86	.86	-	.877	.070	4
.870	.840	JORDAN STEEL	8.2	8.54	51	32600	27124	.86	.86	.86	.86	-.02	.868	.2176	5
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Sampras, Rafter and Korda ousted from U.S. Open tuneup

NEW HAVEN (AFP) — Pete Sampras, Pat Rafter and Petr Korda will have a little more time off this week to prepare for the U.S. Open than they might have wished.

All three were ousted in the third round here Thursday at the \$1 million ATP International.

Indian qualifier Leander Paes ousted top seed Sampras 6-3, 6-4, in 74 minutes in their first career meeting, closing out the third-round match with two aces to book a Friday quarter-final date with Goran Ivanisevic.

France's Guillaume Raoux snapped reigning U.S. Open champion Rafter's career-best 11-match win 7-6 (10/8), 6-3. Third-seeded Australian Open champion Petr Korda lost 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 to fellow Czech Bohdan Ulihrach.

Despite the defeat, Sampras will regain the number one ranking next week, and likely the top seed when the U.S. Open draw is made Wednesday, thanks to a loss by Chile's Marcelo Rios at Indianapolis.

Rios was upset 5-7, 6-1, 7-5, by Zimbabwe's Byron Black in the third round at Indianapolis. He needed to reach the semi-finals to defend enough points to hold off Sampras. Rafter's longest bid was done in by his loss here.

Despite his moving up, Sampras admitted he was

unable to played his best here after playing for three weeks in a row.

"I knew he would be coming in a lot and be frustrating to play, but I was very flat and you can't afford that in this league," said Sampras. "I've been playing three weeks in a row and it's taken its toll on me."

"I give him credit. He played well, but I'm not the player I am usually. What I need to do is go home and take a couple of days off and let the body rest and recharge the batteries. Once the U.S. Open comes around I'll be ready."

Paes claimed both service breaks on double faults by Sampras, the first to move ahead 4-2 in the opening set and the last for a 5-4 lead in the second after Sampras saved break points in games five and seven.

Paes almost decided not to play the qualifying event because of a viral infection and fever, and was delighted he made the effort but refused to claim his win over Sampras as the best moment of his career.

"It's a great win, fantastic," he said. "He's one of my all-time heroes as a tennis player and it's almost like a dream come true to beat him. But winning a bronze medal at the Olympics was better. There's something about playing for my country that takes me to another level. It is the way I was raised."

Paes had dropped only six

games in advancing past Marc Rosset and Sergei Bruguera in the first two rounds.

Rafter had won titles the past two weeks at the Canadian Open and ATP Championships and admitted he might be worn down. "I felt a little bit flat," Rafter said. "It's tough mentally, more than physically, to keep going. But you've got to lose sometime."

"I would like to have kept winning and wanted to see how far I could go," Rafter said. "It was an interesting challenge for me. Now I think it's pretty important for me to get away from tennis for a couple of days, to do something else."

Rafter has set himself a difficult schedule of four tournaments in four weeks leading up to his defence at the U.S. Open, which begins August 31. He plans to play next week at an ATP event on Long Island.

Raoux will face seventh seed Karol Kucera in the quarter-finals after the Slovak overcame Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten 6-4, 7-5.

Defending champion and fifth seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia beat Dutchman Jan Siemerink 6-4, 6-4.

Croatia's Ivanisevic emerged from a stormy clash with Nicolas Pietrangeli with a 6-3, 7-5 victory. The German held four break points before losing his serve to fall behind 4-2, and also failed to win two more

break points in the next game.

Within minutes of the start, both players were arguing line calls and their faith in the officiating was not improved by the umpire over-ruling several times.

"I'm trying to have fun and I enjoyed it today, having conversations with the umpire and linesman," said Ivanisevic. "They were very bad. I never saw so many bad calls in one match. It's tough to concentrate and once I almost lost it, but I told myself to calm down and not spoil everything. I'd worked hard for the match and didn't want to throw it away."

"The only problem here in America is the lines-people are so old. In Europe they're all young, but there was some old lady here. I don't blame her if she doesn't see the ball. It's so fast. I asked her if she was having a good time, and she said yes. She's a nice lady probably, but I don't know why they have such old people. Maybe it's a tradition. It makes it more fun."

Both players received warnings. Ivanisevic threw his racket after failing to win two break points at 1-1 in the second set, and Kiefer was warned after hitting a ball into the crowd after being broken for 6-5. If the ball had struck a spectator instead of a railing, the German would have received an automatic default.

IOC doping czar refuses to resign

LAUSANNE (AFP) — The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) top anti-doping fighter Prince Alexandre de Merode on Thursday rejected Spanish calls for his resignation.

The Spanish Olympic Committee had called for the outspoken de Merode, head of the IOC medical commission, to stand down after he accused Spanish doctors of trying to undermine the IOC battle against doping.

De Merode, in an interview in the Figaro newspaper, claimed that IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch's recent call for easing the traditional hard-line stance taken by the IOC on drugs had been brought about by certain Spanish doctors.

"President Samaranch has always been against doping and he has always supported the action taken by the medical commission," said de Merode. "I know where these ideas come from... doctors who have forgotten their professional ethics."

"We must not forget that doping has been going on in Spanish sport for a very long time. A president of the athletics federation has even been sacked because he refused to pick athletes who did not take drugs," he added.

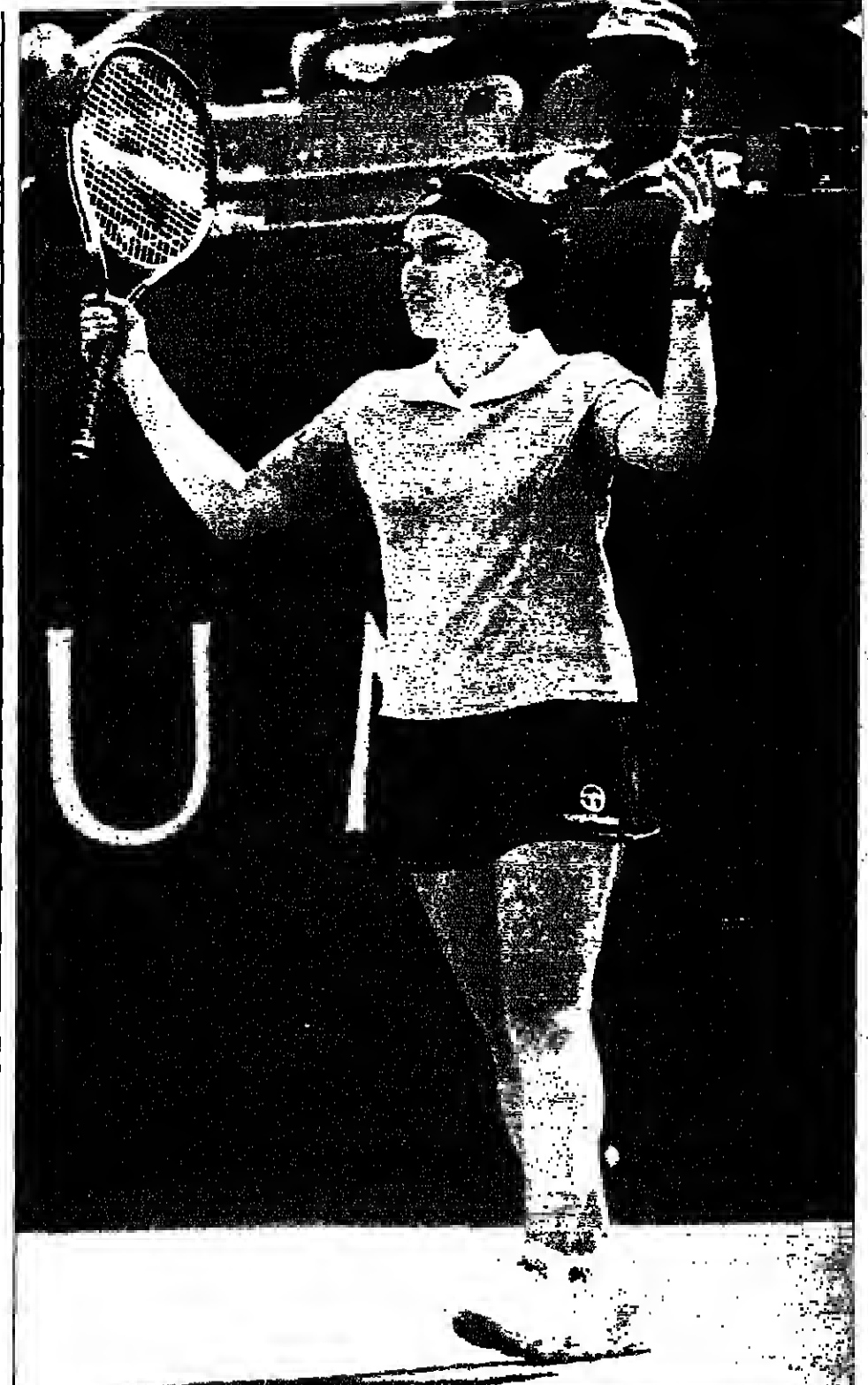
An unrepentant de Merode said on Thursday he was not picking on Spain. "Every country has disreputable doctors who supply drugs. I only mentioned Spain because President Samaranch is Spanish," he explained.

But his comments have so angered the Spanish that in a bid to defuse the issue Samaranch said there would be a meeting later this month in Lausanne with Spanish officials, including the country's sports minister.

The IOC president is hoping that a clear-the-air meeting with de Merode and Spanish officials will put an end to the affair.

Samaranch also used Thursday's meeting to deny that he had ever suggested that the fight on drugs should be eased.

"I have never said performance-enhancing drugs should be taken off the list. All such drugs are harmful to athletes. It is a kind of cheating we can not accept in sport," said the 78-year-old president.



Switzerland's Martina Hingis reacts to an umpire's call during her match against Japan's Ai Sugiyama at the du Maurier Open in Montreal. Hingis won the match 6-3, 6-0 to advance to the next round (Reuters photo)

Hingis advances but Graf ousted at Canadian Open

MONTREAL (AFP) — Swiss World No. 1 Martina Hingis advanced and former world number one Steffi Graf was ousted here Thursday in a WTA Canadian Open third round halted by rain.

Hingis, who has not won a title since the Italian Open in early May, beat Japan's Ai Sugiyama 6-3, 6-0, while seventh-seeded German Graf fell to Spain's Magui Serna 6-4, 6-4 at the \$926,250 event.

Czech second seed Jana Novotna beat Italy's Silvia Farina 6-1, 6-4, to book a quarter-final date with Serna while fifth seed American Monica Seles ousted Indonesian Yuyuki Busuki 6-3, 6-3.

Novotna has won her past three tournaments, including Wimbledon, and is on an 18-match win streak. She rose to 41-8 on the year.

Seles, attempting to win her fourth straight title at this event, has reached the semifinals of the last three events held in California, but has failed to reach a final since the French Open in early June.

But rain postponed teen star Anna Kournikova's match against Spain's Conchita Martinez and left France's Sandrine Testud and Romania's Irina Spirlea deadlocked at 6-6.



Germany's Steffi Graf shakes hands with Spain's Magui Serna following her loss at the du Maurier Open in Montreal. Serna won the match 6-4, 6-4 to advance to the next round (Reuters photo)

Monaco aim to prevent World Cup burnout

PARIS (AFP) — French League table-toppers Monaco defend their 100 per cent record at Toulouse on Saturday very much aware of coach Jean Tigana's warnings about World Cup burnout.

Wins over promoted Lorient and Sochaux have given the club from the principality an early boost and Tigana is delighted with the form of strikers Victor Ikpeba of Nigeria and World Cup winner Thierry Henry.

But Tigana warned: "It's no surprise that those who played in the World Cup will be playing well. But they must watch out in October or November for minor injuries which could crop up as the pitches harden during the winter."

Monaco's other World Cup winners: striker David Trezeguet and goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, are currently hampered by injuries.

Trezeguet has a calf problem and Barthez pulled out of France's 2-2 international draw with Austria in Vienna on Wednesday after pulling a muscle in his upper left thigh last weekend.

"It will be up to me to monitor my players carefully so we husband our energies properly throughout the season," said Tigana.

Monaco are still adapting in midfield with Ludovic Giuly coming in following the sale of Ali Beorabia to Bordeaux. Giuly has formed a very attacking midfield trio with Sabri Lamouchi and Franck Gava.

Second-placed Bordeaux may be hard-pushed to hold on to their 100 per cent record with coach Elie Baup baving to do without defenders David Jemali, Kodjo Afanou and Francois Grenet at home to Auxerre.

Captain Michel Pavon, suspended after being sent off in their opening victory over Paris Saint Germain, is back in action, however.

Auxerre coach Guy Roux has a fully-fit squad to choose from after Oumar Dieng and Thomas Deniaud overcame knocks during the week.

Montpellier veteran Xavier Gravelaine is doubtful for the trip to his old club Marseille after suffering a heel injury. He took Thursday off and will have a late fitness test before the Stade Velodrome clash.

Third-placed Marseille are the only other side, along with Monaco and Bordeaux, to have won both their matches to date.

Montpellier's Ivory Coast striker

Ibrahima Bakayoko, who had been thought to be playing his last match for the club on Saturday before a sale to English champions Arsenal, is now set to appear for the Riviera side.

Lyon striker Frederic Kanoute, who already has a goal to his name this season, has pulled out of his side's trip to promoted Lorient in southern Brittany. Centre-forward Marco Grassi is also doubtful and should he pull out, Cameroon's Joseph-Desire Job might make his debut for the club.

Paris Saint Germain have a chance to surge up from their equal sixth spot at Strasbourg, who are relying on the same squad which lost to Nantes last week.

Strasbourg coach Pierre Mankowski said: "We have nothing to lose as all the pressure is on PSG's shoulders."

Defending champions Lens, who visit Sochaux on Sunday, are among eight clubs looking for their first victory of the season. The others are Nancy, Le Havre, Lorient, Strasbourg, Metz, Bastia and Sochaux.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Rovers swoop for Dailly

BLACKBURN (AFP) — Blackburn on Thursday beat the deadline for the registration of players for European competitions to sign Christian Dailly from English Premiership rivals Derby, according to the club's telephone information service. The 24-year-old Scotland international defender has signed for a fee of five million pounds (eight million dollars) and is seen by Rovers as the ideal replacement for compatriot Colin Hendry who recently joined Glasgow Rangers. Dailly began his career at hometown club Dundee United before moving to Derby for one million in 1996. Ironically, the ex-Ram played his final game under Jim Smith in the opening day clash at Ewood Park on Saturday.

Rink eligible to play for Germany

COLOGNE (AFP) — Bayer Leverkusen striker Paulo Rink, who holds dual Brazilian and German nationality, has been ruled eligible to play for Germany at international level. The German Football Federation said Thursday that it had confirmed that Rink had attended two training camps for Brazil's junior national teams but never actually played. Based on his German passport, issued in Bonn in February this year, Rink is now free to be called up by German coach Berti Vogts. Rink can hardly speak any

German, but dug up a great grandfather in his family tree who emigrated to Brazil from Heidelberg in 1904 — which automatically gave him the right to a German passport. His first season in the Bundesliga (1997/98) was uneventful and Leverkusen even toyed with the idea of selling him during the winter break. Rink was impressive against Hansa Rostock last week, however, and Vogts has said he is under consideration for an international call-up.

Reuter will no longer play under Vogts

BONN (AFP) — German international Stefan Reuter on Thursday said he would no longer play under national team coach Berti Vogts. Reuter complained that Vogts did not follow a consistent line and that he could never count on his explicit support. "I will not continue under the authority of Vogts," said 31-year-old Reuter, who said he has also informed the German federation of his decision. "I finally had a chat with Vogts on the phone and told him that I am no longer available. This has nothing to do with age. Our relationship was such that we just weren't pulling in the same direction." Reuter, who has 69 caps, stressed that he may play for his country again if the team were taken over by a new man. Vogts has already indicated he will stand down if Germany failed to qualify for the European championships in two years time.

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA 1'	PHILADELPHIA 2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Hisham Yanes Theatre
	Robert Duvall & Tea Leoni...in DEEP IMPACT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30	Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD 1' Robert Duvall & Tea Leoni...in DEEP IMPACT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD 2' BABY'S DAY OUT Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Gallria GODZILLA Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Gallria Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 9:30	STARTING JULY 15TH The Authority in the Service of the People Starring Hisham Yanes and the group For reservations call: 4640155, 4625155

Jordan overcomes Chinese Taipei in taekwondo

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday attended the friendly tournament groupings of Jordanian and Taiwanese taekwondo junior teams marking the 46th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's Accession to the Throne.

The event, held at the Prince Rashid Ben Al Hassan Centre for Martial Arts, witnessed a strong showing for Jordan's team currently preparing to take part in the World Championship in Turkey next month.

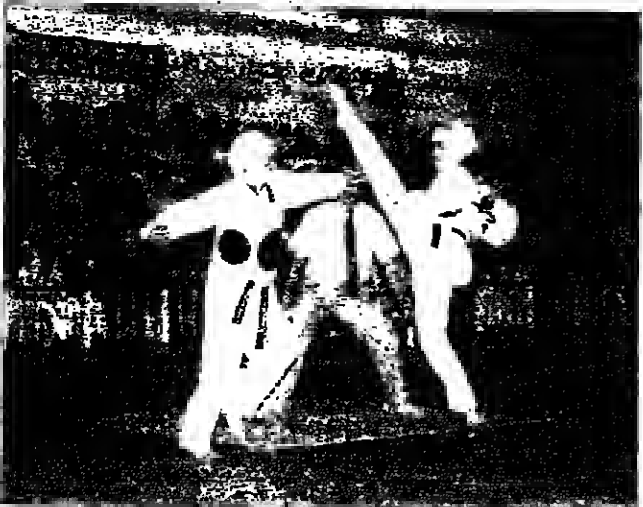
The Kingdom's girls team beat their counterparts 7-3 while the boys won 8-2.

Prince Hassan presented the champions with trophies, medals and certificates to the ten leading centres in the Kingdom.

Also attending were HRH Prince Rashid, Minister of Culture and Youth Talal Al



HRH Prince Hassan presents the winners' trophy to Jordanian coach Samer Kamal



A scene from Thursday's competition during which Jordan beat Chinese Taipei

Hassan, Secretary-General Federation President Isam Arida and Taekwondo General Tahseen Shurdum.

Australian soccer boss quits

SYDNEY (AFP) — The man behind Terry Venables' short reign as Australia's soccer coach has resigned suddenly as chairman of Soccer Australia (SA).

The Australian game was bewildered Friday following the unexpected departure of controversial chairman David Hill late Thursday.

Hill also stepped down as chairman of Sydney Water to concentrate on the imminent Australian federal election, where he will stand as the Labor Party candidate for the southern Sydney seat of Hughes.

The Soccer Australia board is expected to meet on August 29 to choose a new chairman. Hill was instrumental in getting former England manager Terry Venables to coach the Socceroos, who were with in a goal of qualifying for this year's World Cup finals in France.

The Socceroos lost on the 'away' goals rule against Iran in Melbourne in the final Asian eliminator last November. Venables subsequently became manager of English First Division club Crystal Palace.

Hill had been working to have Australia included in the Asian zone qualification for the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea rather than its current Oceania affiliation. Socceroo coach Raul Blanco was shocked: "I just don't know how to take it. I don't know what's happening. I spoke to him this morning (Thursday) and he did not indicate anything like this was about to happen."

European Athletics Championships Italian ace thinks he has Kipketer in his sights

BUDAPEST (AFP) — Italian 800 metres runner Andrea Longo said here on Friday that he felt he could cause the shock of the European championships and beat world indoor and outdoor record holder Wilson Kipketer.

Longo, who is ranked second in Europe this season, finished an easy second in the opening heats behind Irishman James McElroy while Germany's Nils Schumann consigned Kipketer, who has only recently returned to the track after a severe bout of malaria, to his second successive defeat.

"It's going to be difficult for Wilson to run three races in three days after being off for so long and that is where my window of opportunity lies," the 23-year-old Longo said looking ahead to Saturday's semi-finals and Sunday's final.

"However, I will not allow myself to get distracted by watching Kipketer because that would be fatal," he added.

Kipketer, who is the reigning world indoor and outdoor champion, looked easy enough, coming from last to second on the final bend and it was hard to gauge whether he had deliberately laid off taking on the German or if his lack of training had told.

"The defeat means nothing, I perhaps underestimated the guy because I didn't know he was the European indoor champion but the semi-finals will reveal more about how I feel," the 27-year-old Kenyan-born naturalised-Dane said.

"The only problem I am encountering at the moment is in the final 50 metres so I may have to lay up closer to the pace. But I will decide that during the race," he added.

Britain's Colin Jackson, the 110 metres hurdles world record holder, showed that the two week break he had taken before the championships had not left him rusty as he won impressively in a very tough heat.

The 31-year-old, who is also the defending champion,



Colin Jackson of Great Britain is seen through the row of hurdles before his men's 110 metre hurdles heat during the 17th European Championships in Athletics in Budapest (Reuters photo)

on, eased home ahead of said: "I'm not in a bad way. In a nice twist among those behind Jarrett, twice a world outdoor silver medalist, was recently crowned world junior champion Stanislav Olijars, whose mother Ludmilla is Jarrett's coach — he went through in third place.

Another of Britain's defending champions Steve Backley laid down the gauntlet to his rivals when he threw the javelin 87.45 metres, in the qualifying round, to break his own championship record set eight years ago in Split.

Poland celebrated their second gold medal in 24 hours when Robert

Korzeniowski won the 50 kilometres walk, giving him a perfect record over the distance as he has won his only other two races over the distance in the past two years — the Olympic title in 1996 and the world title in Athens last year.

However, the 30-year-old French-based walker was not a happy man at the finish venting his spleen at French judge Jacques Xenard.

"I can't believe that after all I have done to promote walking in France that a Frenchman would twice call me for fouls and nearly cost me my title ... he's really something special!" he said.

Liverpool facing test of strength from Gunners

LONDON (AFP) — Liverpool's title credentials will be given the severest possible test when they entertain defending champions Arsenal at Anfield on Saturday.

Liverpool are the most successful club side in the history of the English football league having won 18 league titles this century including 11 between 1973 and 1990.

But their formidable reputation has faded in the 1990s as arch rivals Manchester United usurped their position as the strongest team in the country.

One FA Cup triumph (1992) and one League Cup success (1995) is all the mighty Reds have to show for the last eight years — and their famously loyal fans are desperate for a return to the glory days.

But Liverpool's veteran German striker Karlheinz Riedle believes the club has finally discovered the formula to bring back the championship crown to Anfield.

"We have a good team and a good squad and a lot of the players are high quality," said the 32-year-old Riedle. "I think we are good enough to win something and I hope we can win the title."

"There is now a good mix in the dressing room. Everyone can learn from each other — young from the old and old from the young."

One of the keys to Liverpool's season will be Riedle's partnership with England's World Cup star Michael Owen while Robbie Fowler remains sidelined by injury until the New Year.

The pair got off to a winning start at Southampton on Sunday when both of them scored in a 2-1 victory and Riedle says: "Michael is, for sure, an outstanding player."

"I think he can be one of the biggest players of all if he carries on the way he has done."

Riedle understands the importance of a strong squad after winning three Bundesliga titles with Werder Bremen and Borussia Dortmund and after winning the European Cup with Dortmund in 1997.

But his first year with the Reds was trophyless after a campaign which promised so much on both European and domestic fronts.

"We had the possibility of winning something last year but we struggled in strange games we lost," Riedle said.

"But we already had some quality. We are better prepared now and we will challenge."

Arsenal, meanwhile, struggled to a 2-1 victory over Premiership newcomers and relegation favourites Nottingham Forest in their opening match of the season on Monday.

The Premiership and FA Cup winners have made just one major signing in the summer — Argentina's Nelson Vivas — and many of their players are yet to recover from last season's exhausting campaign and the World Cup.

Even so, after the first round of matches the Gunners' Premiership title odds have been cut from 2-1 joint favourites to 7-4 clear favourites by bookmakers William Hill who have lengthened Manchester United from 2-1 to 9-4 following United's 2-2 home draw with Leicester on Saturday.

William Hill also offer 5-1 Liverpool, 11-3 Chelsea (from 4-1), 20-1 West Ham, 25-1 Blackburn and Leeds.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger blamed the lack of match practice for his side's struggle against

Forest.

But the Frenchman warned that the Double winners were always likely to toil at the start of the season and that star players like Dennis Bergkamp, English football's player of the season last year, will only get better.

"We were not sharp," he said. "Our preparation has been short. We had eight players at the World Cup and we only had two weeks for some of them to prepare."

"Dennis Bergkamp is not at his best physically but in one or two weeks he will be sharper."

In other matches, Chelsea and Newcastle will have the chance to make up for disappointing starts when the big-spending clubs clash at Stamford Bridge.

Both sides came in for heavy criticism at the weekend after Chelsea's star-studded side crashed 2-1 at Leicester and Newcastle were booed off the pitch after a 0-0 draw against Charlton, who played most of the match with 10 men after the dismissal of Richard Rufus.

Tottenham will also be desperate for a positive result at home to Sheffield Wednesday to appease their long-suffering fans after last week's 3-1 defeat to Premiership minnows Wimbledon.

First NBA game set for Israel

NEW YORK (AFP) — The first game at risk if the National Basketball Association owners and players cannot solve their labour fight is an October 12 exhibition in Israel.

The NBA pre-season schedule announced here Thursday was made with the hope the squabbling multi-millionaires will find a way to divide their \$1.7 billion empire.

The first scheduled pre-season game is in Tel-Aviv's Yad Eliyahu Arena between the Miami Heat and Maccabi Tel-Aviv.

Five exhibitions involving two NBA

teams are set for North American NBA cities the next night, the most enticing of them being the Chicago Bulls hosting Atlanta.

The exhibition schedule continues to the end of the month with regular season games set for November.

The NBA is the only major North American league never to lose a game over a labor dispute. Owners want an end to salary cap exemptions while players want to hold the line with the current system.

Australian Embassy Employment Vacancy

The Australian Embassy is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified applicants for the position of receptionist/consular/passport assistant.

Applicants should be able to speak and write fluently in both Arabic and English. Highly developed interpersonal and computer skills are essential. Duties include providing a professional and efficient telephone service, handling of routine passport and consular counter enquiries as well as a range of other administrative tasks.

Interested applicants should forward CVs to: Personnel Officer, Australian Embassy, P.O. Box 35201, Amman 11180, Jordan no later than 3rd September, 1998.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI
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DON'T TRUST YOUR EYES

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ K 9 7 3	♠ A 10 9	♠ A 10 9	♠ A 10 9
♥ J 10 8 4	♥ K 9 8	♥ K 9 8	♥ K 9 8
♦ A 10 8 4	♦ A 10 8 4	♦ A 10 8 4	♦ A 10 8 4
♣ A 10 8 4	♣ A 10 8 4	♣ A 10 8 4	♣ A 10 8 4

The bidding:

NORTH		SOUTH	
1♠	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	3NT	Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

It does not always pay to win a trick when it is offered. A simple holdup play combined with a dash of daring worked wonders for East-West on this deal.

North-South were using weak no-trump opening bids, which accounts for North's choice for the initial salvo. The raise to two no trump was invitational and South, with a maximum, had no problem in going on to game.

West led a spade, won in the closed hand with the jack. A heart to the nine was allowed to hold, and declarer returned to hand with the ace of spades to repeat the heart finesse, and the ten won as East ducked again.

With no conventionary way to get to hand, declarer led the king of diamonds, and continued with the queen after East held off one round. And West dropped the ten. East took the ace this time and dummy's rise was promoted to a trick when the jack dropped. East continued with a diamond, setting up the eight in hand.

Declarer now thought there were 10 tricks without the club finesse. Two spades, four hearts with the help of a third finesse, two diamonds and two clubs. So South cashed the king of clubs, returned to hand with the ace to see whether the queen would drop, then took the 'marked' heart finesse for the over-trick. A delighted East scored the king, then cashed the eight of diamonds and ♠ 9 of clubs for a one-trick set.

We don't want to take anything away from East's defense, but South missed an alternative way to secure 10 tricks. Instead of cashing the King of clubs, declarer should have come to hand with the ace and led a spade toward the Queen. As the cards lie, a surprised South now emerges with two overtricks!

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- Minimum three-year experience in the above mentioned fields.
- Age should not be more than 32 years.
- English language is a must with a valid drivers licence.
- Should be dynamic, with a strong personality and be able to prepare marketing plans and agent-related services as well as a good experience in supervising.

Those qualified will be granted a basic salary, housing and transportation in accordance with their experience. They will also be provided with monthly and annual allowances commensurate with the achievement of selling targets.

For those interested, please send resume and the related scientific degrees, experience certificates, and a recent personal photo and phone number to:

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I am coming again, Best wishes from Dublin, Ireland.

Maria Aquirre
28 St. Catherine's Ave.
Rush Co. Dublin
Ireland, 30 July, 1998

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Its great to get your warm feeling about CHEERS @ TURINO CAFE'. We really tried hard for the last 5 years to uphold our "UNEQUALLED SERVICE, UNENDING HOSPITALITY" motto.

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We exchange our best esteem to friendly Ireland. **TURINO Hotel**

Mideast papers unite to condemn U.S. strikes

AMMAN (AFP) — Middle Eastern newspapers adopted a single voice Friday to slam the United States' strikes against sites allegedly linked to Saudi multimillionaire and terrorism broker Osama Ben Laden.

"The United States has made a mistake — they have applied the law of the jungle, snubbing the views of the international community," warned the Doha-based Ash-Sharq.

U.S. missiles on Thursday took out an alleged Islamist base camp in Afghanistan and a suspected chemical weapons factory in Sudan which U.S. President Bill Clinton said presented an "imminent threat" to U.S. national security.

But the Qatari paper questioned the legitimacy of the attacks.

"By bombing the sites in Sudan and Afghanistan, the U.S. hasn't realised that it is replicating terrorist acts with yet another terrorist act," it wrote.

U.S. officials have said the missiles were launched in retaliation for the bombings at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania which killed 257 people on August 7.

In the United Arab Emirates a paper lashed out at an "arrogant" United States for its unorthodox approach to international justice.

"Even if the United States has gathered all the information against the U.S. embassies, they cannot reserve the right as a superpower, to take revenge

without recourse to the United Nations Security Council," wrote Al Khaleej.

The paper also criticised the United States' double dealings at home and abroad contrasting the U.S. strikes with "a shining image of legality on the domestic front" projected in an ongoing investigation of the U.S. president for perjury.

The Egyptian government paper Al-Ahram Al-Masri meanwhile dealt equal portions of blame to the United States and those targeted by its attacks.

"Shame on the United States for having reacted with such violence and barbarity, leaving innocent people dead," the paper said.

"Shame also on the Islamic nation for not rejecting those who shelter murderers and criminals disguised as fighters for the faith," it said, implicitly criticising the regimes in Khartoum and Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

Osama Ben Laden, an anti-U.S. Saudi national living in exile in Afghanistan under the protection of the hardline Taliban Islamists, is reported to be safe after U.S. missiles on Thursday hit bases linked to him.

Clinton cited "convincing information" that Ben Laden's followers were responsible for the deadly twin attacks on U.S. embassies in Africa.

In Bahrain, the official Akhbar Al-Khaleej called on Washington to revise its Middle East policy and rectify the failure to deal equally with

Arab and "Zionist terrorists."

"International cooperation to combat terrorism has no chance of success unless it is accompanied by clear foreign policy based on the principles of justice and balance," the paper wrote.

Beirut-based papers meanwhile linked the timing of the U.S. strikes to Clinton's embroilment in a sex scandal involving former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

"Lewinsky's dress is not troubling the world any more after Clinton discovered the traditional robe of Osama Ben Laden," said a sarcastic editorial by the opposition Kifaj Al-Arabi in reference to a dress reportedly stained with Clinton's semen.

The pro-Syrian Asharq wrote: "Clinton escapes from scandal to international piracy" while the English-language Daily Star splashed its front page with "Post-Monica Clinton Blasts Terror Bases."

And the French-language L'Orient-Le Jour pointed out the similarity borne between Thursday's attacks and last year's movie "Wag the Dog" starring Dustin Hoffman in which the U.S. president invents a fictional war to cover up a sex scandal.

Some Jordanian papers meanwhile carried front page headlines on the attacks but stories were hidden well inside due to preoccupation with Thursday's change of government.



BABY BOOM: Keeper Joe Walker shows her eight-month-old koala called 'Istar' to a TV camera in what zoo staff are calling a 'baby boom' at the Taronga Zoo in Sydney on Friday. Spring has arrived early at the zoo with the arrival of a number of baby koalas, quokkas, possums, rock wallaby joey and black swan cygnets to boost numbers at the zoo (AFP photo)

Arabs mark 29 years since arson attack on Aqsa Israel enforces siege on Hebron after settlers attack Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinians scuffled with Israeli troops in Hebron Friday as the army sealed off the West Bank city following the stabbing death of a prominent Jewish settler the previous night.

The murder shortly before midnight of Rabbi Shlomo Raanan, 63, compounded tensions already running high due to the deadline in the peace process and the 29th anniversary Friday of an arson attack on Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque.

Nearly 3,000 people, most of them militant Jewish nationalists, attended Raanan's funeral on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem Friday.

At one point mourners booed and screamed "traitor" at Immigration Minister Yehudiya Edelstein, accusing him of failing to protect settlers and of planning to cede more West Bank land to Palestinian rule.

But the funeral was otherwise calm and a feared confrontation with Muslims following Friday prayers at the adjacent Al Aqsa Mosque did not materialise, in part due to a show of force by Israeli police.

In Hebron, the army responded to Raanan's murder by barring all entry to and exit from the city of 120,000, most of which is ruled by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority.

Troops also imposed a curfew on Palestinian areas where 15,000 Arabs live adjacent to the city's 400-strong Jewish settler enclave and which are still under Israeli control.

Before the curfew took effect, dozens of Jewish militants rampaged through the Arab quarter, beating Palestinians and sending two persons to hospital, witnesses said.

Friday morning a small group of Palestinian youths pelted Israeli soldiers with stones and firebombs along the frontier between Israeli and Palestinian-ruled sectors.

Troops fired a few rubber-coated bullets in return and Palestinian police moved in to disperse the protesters. No injuries were reported.

The Palestinian National Authority condemned the closure of Hebron, which Israeli officers said would last several days.

"This is dangerous for the [peace] agreements and will only lead to a heightening of tension, particularly in view of the deadline in the peace process caused by Israeli intransigence," said Nabil Abu Rudeina, Arafat's spokesman.

He made no comment on the Hebron stabbing itself.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cut short a vacation in northern Israel due to the Hebron attack and an upsurge in fighting in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon where three Israelis were killed in barely 24 hours.

Netanyahu told Israeli Radio that a close advisor, Yitzhak Molcho, had telephoned

Arafat overnight and demanded Palestinian action to track down Raanan's killer. According to Netanyahu, Arafat agreed.

"We will use all the means at our disposal to protect the residents of Hebron's Jewish community and I have spoken with the heads of our security services about this," Netanyahu said.

David Bar Ilan, Netanyahu's spokesman, also insisted Arafat "issue an unambiguous condemnation" of the killing, which came two weeks after two Israeli militant settlers were gunned down by Palestinians in the northern West Bank.

Tensions between Israel and the Palestinians have risen for months as negotiations stalled over Netanyahu's refusal to carry out promised further withdrawals in the West Bank and his policy of expanding Jewish settlements.

Raanan, a prominent militant and grandson of Israel's

first chief rabbi, was stabbed by a Palestinian who broke into his mobile home in Tel Rumeida, an isolated quarter which is home to the most radical elements of Hebron's 400-strong settler community.

The attacker tried to set the mobile home alight before fleeing, police said.

The attack came as Muslims prepared to mark the anniversary Friday of a 1969 arson attack on Al Aqsa Mosque by an Australian messianic Christian, Michael Rohan.

Rohan was committed to a psychiatric hospital and deported to Australia in 1974. Muslims blamed Israel for failing to prevent the attack.

Palestinian leaders had called for mass prayers Friday at Al Aqsa, but Israeli police roadblocks kept the number of worshippers down.

Three Palestinians were also detained when about 100 marchers scuffled briefly with Israeli troops outside Ramallah on the West Bank.



Posh Spice and David Beckham expecting baby

LONDON (AFP) — Posh Spice, alias the pouting Victoria Adams, is three months pregnant by Manchester United footballer David Beckham, whom she intends marrying after the birth, revealed the Sun tabloid Friday. Bouts of morning sickness during the Spice Girls' recent U.S. tour prompted the perennially mini-skirted Posh Spice to announce her pregnancy to the group.

Prince Albert of Monaco imposter preys on Romanian monks

BUCHAREST (AFP) — Police are investigating an imposter posing as the Romanian representative of Prince Albert of Monaco in order to steal valuable religious treasures, police sources said Friday.

The imposter, a 21-year-old student named Viorel Plescan, turned up at a sumptuous monastery in the central Romanian region of Brasov, claiming to be the representative of the Grimaldi royal family.

Plescan told the monks at the Simbata monastery that the prince would shortly visit the sanctuary to make a donation of 500,000 French francs.

Following in major excesses, the prince would visit the sanctuary to make a donation of 500,000 French francs.

Basset: 'Dangerous to know the real people you play in a movie'

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Actress Angela Basset says it's always a bit dangerous to get to know too much about the real people you're playing in a movie. She had that experience once, meeting Tina Turner and then playing in a movie based on her life in "What's Love Got To Do With It?" "I should have learned, I should have learned, it makes it so hard to get out of yourself and truly interpret the character," says Basset, who is now starring in "How Stella Got Her Groove Back."

The film was written by novelist Terry McMillan, who also wrote "Waiting to Exhale."

When Goldberg on the set, things go a bit wacky

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — It's inevitable that when grandmother and Academy Award-winning comedian Whoopi Goldberg is on the set of a film, things go a bit wacky. "She would cater to you one minute, asking you if you were all right, and if you wanted some coffee or cookies or something, and then the next minute she would command such respect and awe by every one in the crew," says director Kevin Rodney Sullivan, who directed Goldberg in "How Stella Got Her Groove Back."

James Bond and Batman in the streets of Netherlands

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Dutch police in Guelph donned bullet-proof vests to hunt down two armed men stalking the streets dressed as James Bond and Batman. ANP news agency reported. After a spring chase, the lawmen in the little town in the southeast of the Netherlands finally cornered their quarry — a find they were carrying water-pistols. It emerged after identity checks that the desperate couple, aged 19 and 23, were in a camp who had organized a game of cops and robbers.

Turkey says Taleban advance should be stopped

ANKARA (AFP) — The Islamist Taleban movement's military advance in northern Afghanistan should be stopped as it is threatening territorial integrity and stability in central Asia, a Turkish cabinet minister urged Friday.

It was the first time Turkey, which supports an Uzbek movement led by General Abdul Rashid Dostum in Afghanistan, has openly called for action against the Taleban.

In a related development, the Turkish foreign ministry charged Taleban with forcefully deporting around 50,000 ethnic Tajiks, Tajiks and Uzbeks from the newly-captured north to Afghanistan's southern regions.

"Taleban should be stopped in Afghanistan, otherwise it is likely to cause worrying results in the region," State Minister Ahat Andican, who is respon-

sible for relations with Asian countries, said in an interview with the right-wing Istanbul daily Zaman.

The Turkish remarks also came as U.S. forces fired cruise missiles into Afghanistan and Sudan in retaliation for the bombing two weeks ago of two U.S. embassies in east Africa, killing more than 200 people and injuring thousands (see story on page 1).

One Turkish foreign ministry official told the state-run Anadolu news agency that Ankara was concerned at what he said was the deportation of ethnic Tajiks, Tajiks and Uzbeks.

The deportation is taking place from the area around Mazar I Sharif, a former stronghold of the Uzbek opposition captured by the Taleban two weeks ago, in Kandahar

and Jalalabad in the south, the official said.

Andican, himself of ethnic Uzbek origin, said Taleban sought to spread Islamic revolution in the area and therefore constituted a great threat for Central Asian countries.

Turkey has set up close links with the mainly Turkic-speaking Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and Farsi-speaking Tajikistan in Central Asia after the Soviet Union's disintegration in 1991.

Andican also accused Taleban of promoting majority Pashtun nationalism in Afghanistan where Tajiks, Turkmen, Uzbeks and Shiite Hazaras also live.

"If Taleban gains full control of Afghanistan, this will threaten the country's territorial integrity and lead to a split. We are against this," he said.

Aziz: U.N. inspections cannot resume until Iraq's demands met

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq insisted Thursday it would not allow U.N. arms inspections to resume until its demands are met and sanctions lifted, just hours before the U.N. Security Council extended the embargo for another two months.

"Iraq will not change its decision...until the Security Council seriously and responsibly studies its justifiable demands, detailed on August 5, and begins to lift the embargo," Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said in a statement quoted by the official INA news agency.

Later in the day, the U.N. Security Council extended the eight-year-old sanctions against Iraq for a further two months.

U.N. Security Council President Danilo Turk told reporters after a closed-door meeting in New York that the 15 members agreed that "the necessary conditions do not

exist for modification of the [sanctions] regime."

The council also reiterated its stand that Iraq's August 5 decision to suspend cooperation with the U.N. weapons inspectors was unacceptable.

Aziz said his comments were a response to a letter sent to him by U.N. arms chief Richard Butler on Wednesday calling for a resumption of all U.N. weapons inspections in Iraq.

Butler urged Iraq to allow the resumption of the inspections so that steps can be taken to end the U.N. embargo imposed following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"An early response from you would enable us to plan, straight away, the required steps, including inspections and experts' meetings," Butler wrote, according to a copy of the letter made public Thursday.

Iraq announced following the collapse of talks between

Butler and Aziz early this month that it would no longer cooperate in the inspection of new sites until the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with dismantling Iraq's restructured and removed from U.S. influence.

"It was proved to us in a very clear fashion in the last talks that Butler is deliberately following a policy of pre-variation...he does not want to tell the Security Council and the world that UNSCOM's mission is complete," Aziz said.

"It is no longer a secret that Butler and certain other elements in UNSCOM's leadership are not international officials but servants of American policy which aims to maintain the sanctions," he said.

"This is why we no longer have confidence in Butler and the elements of the UNSCOM leadership and we do not think it useful to resume work with them," Aziz said.

Israel mulls legalising Palestinian homes

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli authorities are considering sparing up to 3,000 Palestinian houses threatened with demolition in the occupied West Bank, an Israeli official said on Friday.

"We are talking about two to three thousand houses which are inside villages and on private property where there is no

dispute over ownership," Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the coordinator of Israeli activities in the Palestinian territories, told AFP.

"If the buildings conform to our plan for the area then they will not be demolished," Dror said.

"We have to think about the future — about roads and water.

For example water tanks have to be built on the top of hills. If a house is built on top of a hill or near a road without a licence then it will be destroyed," he said.

Israeli demolitions of Palestinian houses, huts and barns are amongst the most sensitive and explosive of issues in the occupied territories.

French visit seeks to capitalise on moderate signs from Iran

By Jocelyn Naveck
The Associated Press

PARIS — Trying to take advantage of Iran's nascent openness to the West, France's foreign minister headed to Tehran on Friday for a visit aimed at boosting economic ties as much as political ones.

The two-day trip by Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine is the highest-level French visit in seven years.

Coming only weeks after the visit of Italy's prime minister, it is a clear sign that Europe, eager to increase trade with Iran, is moving to capitalise quickly on the moderate signs coming out of Tehran since the election of President Mohammad Khatami a year

ago.

It also comes amid a tentative but obvious softening of the relationship between Iran and the United States — or "The Great Satan," as it's been known in Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Vedrine says he plans to brush all subjects, including the thorniest issue affecting Iran's ties to the West: Islamism. The subject clearly will be on the front burner, with the recent attacks on U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, and Washington's retaliatory attacks Thursday in Sudan and Afghanistan, Iran has condemned the embassy bombings.

"I intend to talk about everything when I am in Iran,"

Vedrine said Thursday. His spokeswoman said he'd be carrying a message from President Jacques Chirac.

Much has happened in a year. Only last April, the 15 European Union (EU) countries broke off regular contacts with Iran and withdrew their envoys after a German court found Iranian leaders ordered the 1992 assassination of Kurdish dissidents in Berlin.

But four months later, the moderate Khatami was elected by a landslide, and a month after that the EU ambassadors returned. In January, Khatami called for a "break in the wall of mistrust" with the United States. In March, the Europeans resumed ministerial talks.

Earlier this summer, both

U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright made conciliatory statements to Iran. Clinton said it was "changing in a positive way," and Albright said it was "time to test the possibilities for bridging this gap."

In light of improving ties between Tehran and Washington, Vedrine feels he can serve a useful role by raising some of the problem issues between the two capitals — problems that pose an obstacle to closer European-Iranian ties.

Chief among them: Islamism. The United States has long seen Iran as a rogue state that sponsors Islamism, and Albright has said European allies "just don't get it" about Iran's Islamist activity.

U.S. embassy 9

AMMAN (AFP) — T... Saturday received the... five days claiming the... compound, a Jordanian... anonymous call, an e... police who searched the... explosive device, the... closed on Saturdays. T... she strikes Thursday a... Afghanistan and Sudan... received a similar false... at the embassy was re... son of two bombs at th... Tanzania August 7 wh... over 5,000 injured.

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Ad... Prince... democr...

AMMAN (AFP) — His Ro... Highness Crown Prince Has... the Regent, on Saturday ca... and leaders of all walks of... to consolidate democra... through dialogue and m... peace and shun what... action that bear the seeds... division.

Addressing members of... Upper and Lower Houses... Parliament and the Cabinet... lunch he hosted at the Ro... Court Prince Hassan said: "I... calling from this Hashem... Place on all Jordanians incl... ing political groups, professi... associations and all organ... nists to deal with differen... within a civilised framework... "We should rise above the... and not create sedition... and divisions," said the Cro... Prince.

Following in major ex... with Royal advisers... I welcome you in the house... all Jordanians, and we h... stay, and we will remain op... to all forms of responsible d... home with members of the J... danian family.

We are living through ex... and circumstances at the J... danian, national and intern... usual level, and I would like... affirm our determination... shoulder our responsibility... each citizen is responsible... the state, a tribe, and as... change and democracy is... appropriate today or one he... one year later is a result... of several parliamentary... cations.

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